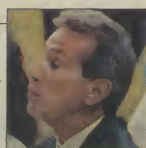


**A violent week in the community**  
Police investigate suspicious death;  
gay man seeks witnesses to attack.  
**pages 2, 11**

**Spotlight on SF's District 9**  
Supervisor candidates in forum;  
Mayor Newsom holds town hall.  
**pages 14, 15**



**Why gay marriage?**  
'Tying the Knot'  
explains the stakes.  
**see Arts section**



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 40 • 30 September 2004

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Jane Philomen Cleland

## Fun times at Folsom!

Readers' Alvin Karpis' nephew is seen in San Francisco's South of Market District Sunday, September 26, for the 21st annual Folsom Street Fair, including (from left) Jilly Rauter, Tim Worn, and Danny Fink. Banned weathered, and what a beautiful day for a parade! (top) is the history of the fair, and the world's largest parade. (bottom) is a photo of the fair, and the world's largest parade. (bottom) is a photo of the fair, and the world's largest parade.

## Activists, magazine out Congressman Dreier

by Matthew S. Bajko

Rumors that Southern California Republican Congressman David Dreier (R-Glendale) is gay percolated to the surface this month after several online weblogs and an alternative Los Angeles newspaper ran stories questioning the powerful House member's sexual orientation. *Hustler* magazine has also revealed it plans to publish an expose on Dreier's life in its November issue.

Dreier, who helped Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger oust Gray Davis from office last year and led his transition team, has been dogged by questions about his sexuality for years. As chair of the House Rules Committee, Dreier wields considerable sway over what bills reach the floor for members to vote on and is seen as a shining star of the national party.



David Dreier

He frequently serves as a Republican mouthpiece on cable and network news programs.

However, his rise to prominence in Republican circles has always been impeded by rumors he is gay. Each time Dreier has moved to run for higher office, whether to unseat Democratic Senator Barbara Boxer or Davis in the recall election, he has been met by whisper campaigns that

he is gay and dropped out of the running.

The single, 52-year-old has only furthered the talk by refusing to discuss his sexual orientation. In his *Windy City Times* column on September 22, Michael Signorile said while interviewing Dreier during the Republican National Convention, he asked him about his sexual orientation and the long-held rumors about him. Dreier, according to Signorile, twice refused to clarify whether he was heterosexual.

"I'm not going to answer that," Dreier said.

A party thrown by the 12-term congressman during the New York convention also added to the gossip. At the bowling party a bikini-clad dancer entertained the crowd from a pink trapeze, reported *The Hill*. At one point, the paper noted that the dancer's gyrations were transmitted live by closed circuit to dozens of television screens above the bowling lanes, prompting startled looks from many partygoers.

In her new book on the Bush clan, *The Family: The Real Story of the Bush Dynasty*, Kitty Kelley further flamed speculation on Dreier's love life. Quoting Barbara Bush on her daughter's dating Dreier, the family matriarch says he "never laid a hand on her" and that the couple's relationship was going nowhere.

Last Thursday, *LA Weekly* posted "The Outing: David Dreier and his straight page 17 ►

## Castro Street Fair in its 31st year

by Tyson Gillfillan

Wrapping up San Francisco's street festivals that cater to the gay community, organizers for the 31st annual Castro Street Fair expect to draw 100,000 revelers this Sunday, October 3 to celebrate the neighborhood and support area nonprofits.

What began as a simple block party for the Castro's gay community has grown to a large neighborhood festival, featuring entertainment on multiple stages; over 200 vendors of food and arts and crafts; works by emerging artists; and special presentations from community groups and businesses.

"We've really worked on making this event better every year," said Castro Street Fair President Steven Gaynes. "We've concentrated on quality instead of trying to make it bigger, keeping it neighborhood-focused."

Martin Locke, Powers that Be, Karney, Kim, the Ethel Merman Experience, the Tubes, Pepperspray, and Mandonna will provide musical entertainment on the main stage. DJs will be spinning at a club dance stage, and the Sundance Association's country and western dance floor.

New to this year's fair, the controversial "Cutest of the Castro" contest will crown its champion on the 18th and Collingwood stage in support of the AIDS Emergency Fund. Following a traditional beauty pageant format, page 16 ►

## Assembly races key to passage of gay marriage bill

by Matthew S. Bajko

For the first time in years, Democrats have a fight on their hands to maintain majority status in the state Legislature. With an eye to seeing his legislative agenda move forward in the Statehouse, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is aggressively campaigning and raising money for Republican candidates throughout the state.

Not to be beat, Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) — a heavy-hitter himself when it comes to fundraising — is also barnstorming across the state for Democratic candidates. Like the governor, Leno has his eye on a legislative prize.

Currently, Democrats outnumber Republicans 48 to 32 in the Assembly and 25 to 14 in the Senate. Even with Schwarzenegger's backing, it is unlikely Republicans will move into the majority party role. But even a few gains in either branch could impede the progress of gay rights.

As chair of the Legislature's LGBT Caucus, Leno wants to ensure there are enough votes to pass LGBT bills and get them to the governor's desk to become law. To do so, he needs 41 votes in the Assembly.

This spring, Leno found himself two votes shy from being able to pass his Marriage License Non-discrimination Act and had to pull the bill. In December, he intends to reintroduce the measure, which would require county clerks to offer marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

To do so, he is raising funds for Democratic candidates throughout the state, looking to shore up support for his legislative



Assemblyman Mark Leno is campaigning for Assembly Democrats around the state.

agenda in the process. At the same time, many of the Republicans the governor has been stumping for have signed pledges with the Campaign for California Families stating emphatically that they do not support gay marriage.

With several Assembly races considered toss-ups at this point in the campaigns, Leno said it is too soon to tell what may happen on election night. But he did say this week that "If we can hold on to our 48 seats I feel very

confident that we will have the necessary 41 votes for the marriage equality bill."

As for voters being swayed by the popular governor to vote Republican, Leno said it would all depend on what Schwarzenegger does the last week of October to influence the election.

"The most telling sign will come the last week of the campaign. We are prepared for him to do personal phone message delivery to targeted districts and to put out his own mail pieces against our candidates," said Leno. "He has raised many millions of dollars to support Republican efforts, but we don't know yet the value of his coattails."


In at least one race, the 80th Assembly District in the Imperial Valley that covers Palm Springs, Leno is not only at odds with the Republicans but Equality California, the Democratic leaning statewide LGBT lobbying group, which is pushing for marriage page 18 ►

## INSIDE

BAR Talk	44
Classifieds	23
Crime & Punishment	11
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	42
Obituaries	20
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out There	30
Out & About	40
OutRight	10
Personals	45
Sports Complex	22
Transmissions	8

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# Forum tackles body image obsession

by Tyson Gillfillan

Gay men are obsessed with body images: preoccupied with how they measure up, and fixated on idealizing others. At least that's what concerns the San Francisco Gay Men's Community Initiative, which hashed out the topic at its September 22 forum, "Mirror, mirror on the wall ... Is body image a fetish amongst gay men?"

Assembling a panel of experts and community members, GMCI asked how preoccupation with body image affects individuals, and the community. If the forum's estimated 50 audience members were any indication, these concerns resonate with widely diverse groups of men, crossing age, race, cultural, and body type divides.

Facing images of idealized male bodies such as enormous Abercrombie and Fitch posters on Market Street, gay beauty pageants, and with Web site chat rooms becoming commonplace meeting venues, event organizer Ralph Hyman hopes to help change perceptions, and spark further discussion on the issue.

"Forty-four percent of gay men are happy with their bodies, compared to 60 percent of straight men who are," said panelist David Gilmore, executive producer of the "OutRight" radio program, citing a recent *Psychology Today* study. In his short film, *Ideal Man: A Personal Look at Gay Male Body Image Obsession*, Gilmore explored the origins of



Radio producer David Gilmore

an ideal body and why gay men are particularly susceptible. "In working to attain an ideal body," said Gilmore, "most of the guys I talked to were trying to attain a sense of belonging ... they had to have a certain look to be a complete gay man."

Panelist Jim LaCroce, who is working on his doctoral degree and has researched body consciousness and its effect on homosexual men, articulated the pitfalls of not measuring up to an ideal image. "Gay men on the whole are more dissatisfied with their bodies than any other group, including straight women. In response [gay men] can either change your body, or change your ideal, and learn to accept yourself," said LaCroce. "When there's a discrepancy between ideal and self image

it leads to problems with mood, unhappiness, depression."

This issue isn't new and many organizations have tried to tackle it. But experts recognize that body image incorporates many seemingly unrelated issues including racism, homophobia, increasingly divided subcultures, and consumerism. As the audience began confronting these intertwined topics, some felt frustration that more questions were being raised than answers.

Forum attendee and Castro resident Tim Roseborough said he enjoyed the opportunity to understand diverse opinions from different segments of the community, and felt that meeting and talking to people he otherwise may not meet, helps with personal and community growth.

Which is precisely what GMCI was hoping for, and why it is hosting forums such as "Mirror, mirror." According to group organizers, their periodic forums and "Wilde Chats" discussions hosted at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center are meant to take large issues and expand them by breaking them up into related questions, and challenge men's basic assumptions about gay culture.

As one audience member waxed poetic, "Men are like bottles of perfume with different colors, shapes, and sizes. We have an opportunity to show the world that we can love the bottle, but also the essence within, like participation, contribution, and goodwill. The community is primed and ready to accept a more mature view on these issues." ▼

## Police investigate suspicious death

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco police continue to investigate a suspicious death that occurred when a man lost consciousness at the Pendulum bar in the Castro last week and later died at a local hospital. The case has been assigned to homicide inspectors, although the lead investigator would not call it a murder Tuesday.

City resident Jay Michael Carbone, 52, died at Davies Medical Center, police said. According to police, Carbone had been at the Pendulum the afternoon of September 23, when he lost con-

sciousness while in the patio area of the bar. Paramedics were called and Carbone was taken to the hospital. Several hours later, hospital staff called the police, according to homicide Inspector Herman Jones. It was after arriving at the hospital that officers went to the Pendulum, at about 6:40 p.m. Carbone apparently suffered severe head trauma, and police have indicated he may have been the victim of an assault.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported Wednesday that Carbone had been sunbathing in the nude, and got involved in a fight over the issue. He apparently hit his head during the scuffle.

Jones declined to provide much information, citing the ongoing nature of the investigation. He said the case has not been formally classified a homicide, pending a report from the medical examiner's office. That report could take several weeks.

"I don't make that determination," Jones said, referring to the death being labeled a homicide.

Jones said police have been interviewing witnesses and have "a number of people of interest" they are talking to.

Darin Nakamura, manager of the Pendulum, declined to comment on the case, citing the ongoing investigation. ▼

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# New wrinkle to boycott

by Kevin Davis

Atlanta's ambitious dynamo, Dale Duncan, appears to be leading his people's economic uprising down a blind alley in the home stretch leading up to his "Boycott for Equality."

In addition to his call for a mass labor strike, cell phone boycott, and buy nothing day on Friday, October 8, Duncan is now rallying all LGBT people to withdraw \$80 on that day to, in his words, "exhaust the cash in many ATMs, leaving a reminder of gay economic power to all who try to use them throughout the long bank weekend."

Those in the financial services industry scoffed at Duncan's latest addition to the boycott.

One banking representative feels confident that even without a firm grasp of the number of participants in Duncan's ATM show of force, withdrawals will flow without interruption.

"We shouldn't be in a position where that would burden our ATM infrastructure," said Chris Hammond, Wells Fargo Bank's vice president and director of business development, in response to Duncan's vision of bankrupt cash machines. "We'll be well prepared to help LGBT people whatever their ATM uses, just as any other day."

Hammond, whose employer leads the AIDS Emergency Fund's corporate funding, added an expression of respect from the company headquartered in San Francisco.

"I can tell you on behalf of Wells Fargo, we firmly believe the LGBT community is a strong economic force," said Hammond. "Our plan is to continue to help LGBT people become financially successful."

Community activists were also critical of Duncan's plan, and one questioned Duncan's use of surveys showing LGBT buying power.

"I doubt statistics that say we

have lots of disposable income," said the Housing Rights Committee's Tommi Avicolli Mecca. "Marketing firms do things to help their clients, to prove there's a viable market, to bring money in. But, there's a reality beyond all that that's not addressed. I don't like promoting the idea that we're more well off. [Critics] throw that in our faces 'you have economic force, you don't have kids.' I honestly don't think it applies to the greater number of economically challenged queer lives. The majority of queers are - like the majority of any community - struggling to get by. My reservation is that, number one, there are people who can't pull \$80 out of their account. I know a lot of us are low income. I see the Tenderloin's poor. We never take them into account."

In a telephone interview last week, Duncan elaborated on the \$80 withdrawal plan.

"If you read my *Advocate* op-ed piece this week, one of the things I suggest is to take out \$80 on the 8th and spend it at gay businesses on the 9th," Duncan told the *Bay Area Reporter*, clarifying his movement's support for community merchants.

But that's not all, because Duncan suggests that gays mark the ATM receipt (after crossing out account information) "gay money" and mail it to their elected representatives.

"They'll get the message that nobody in America can be taken

for granted," said Duncan's latest inexplicable missive, dated September 24.

Bob Witeck, of market research firm Witeck-Combs Communications, is familiar with Duncan's boycott plan and his use of the firm's economic data showing that the GLBT community contributes \$1.4 billion to the U.S. economy daily and whose 2003 buying power totaled \$580.5 billion.

Witeck-Combs bases its data on Census data and other factors, including age, income, and family structure. A new report issued this week portrays a more diverse and visible community.

Witeck, however, also raised concerns with the boycott.

"It's problematic," said Witeck, several of whose client companies rank 100 percent on the Human Right Campaign's equality index.

"These are places we're respected, where we're meaningful...I like it in one sense, to withhold our contribution. But, I don't think every gay person has a like mind. Withdrawing from the economy instead of favoring gay-friendly companies - it's not clear, his motivation and momentum. Is this the best way to educate people about our contributions? It's hard to say how measuring our vote with our dollars will show up on the Richter scale."

Duncan was undeterred.

"If you're indignant clearly they can't do this, and clearly they have other issues," Duncan said blithely.

page 23 ►



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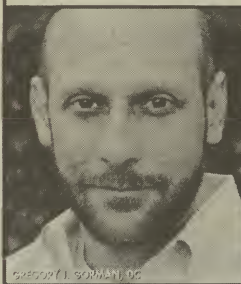
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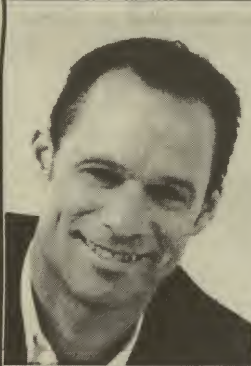


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# News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

## Night Ministry benefit

The San Francisco Night Ministry marks 40 years of service and will commemorate the occasion with a benefit Saturday, October 2 at the Urban Life Center, 1101 O'Farrell Street at Franklin. Entitled "Compassionate Nights & Cool Jazz," the event will feature the Brad Niven Quintet. Donna Sachet will serve as mistress of ceremonies.

In addition to an evening of jazz music, a reception starting at 6:30 p.m. includes hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. A buffet dinner and entertainment, including a live auction, begin at 8. Niven, leader of the musical ensemble, plays regularly at the Washington Square Bar & Grill.

San Francisco Night Ministry provides compassionate, non-judgmental in-person and phone counseling; referral; and intervention services for people in distress during nighttime hours when most other agencies are closed. The Reverend Don Fox makes the rounds of the city's bars, all-night coffee shops, and other places where people gather. Counselors also staff a crisis line (415-986-1464).

Tickets for the event range from \$50 to \$150 and can be ordered by calling (415) 956-2069.

## Candidate forum

The LGBT Community Center and several other organizations will host a candidate forum for San Francisco school board and community college board hopefuls Saturday, October 2 at the center, located at 1800 Market Street.

School board candidates will debate at 1 p.m.; college board candidates will take the stage at 3.

The League of Women Voters, Access SF, Media Alliance, and the Chinese American Voters Education Committee are co-sponsoring the forums.

## 'Calabash!' benefit Sunday

Food for Thought/Sonoma County AIDS Food Bank will host its "Calabash!" fall art and gourd festival Sunday, October 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. at 6550 Railroad Avenue in Forestville, just one block south of downtown Forestville off Route 116.

The event features organic wines along with hors d'oeuvres made by local chefs as guests visit the gourd auction and exhibit. Food for Thought's beautiful organic gardens are the setting for

the event, and they will be at their peak, organizers said.

"You can see gourds growing in the garden, watch gourds being transformed into art, listen to gourds making music, and take home an exotic and magical piece of art," said gallery owner Khysie Horn.

Established in 1988, Food for Thought provides food and nutritional supplements to 450 people living with HIV/AIDS in Sonoma County.

Tickets for Calabash! are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. For tickets or more information, call (707) 887-1647.

## Town hall on ballot measures

The Golden Gate Business Association and the LGBT Community Center will host a meeting Tuesday, October 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. to discuss some local November ballot measures and their effect on LGBT businesses. The meeting takes place at the center, 1800 Market Street in San Francisco.

The items to be discussed include Proposition A, the affordable housing general obligation bond; Proposition B, the neighborhood historical preservation general obligation bond; Proposition J, the transactions and use tax ordinance; and Proposition K, the business tax ordinance.

For more information about GGBA or its programs, call (415) 865-5545 or visit [www.ggba.com](http://www.ggba.com).

## ALRP reception

The AIDS Legal Referral Panel will recognize its 21 years of service with a fundraising reception Wednesday, October 6 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Green Room at the War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, in San Francisco.

Entitled "We Still CARE" the event makes reference to the 41 percent reduction in ALRP's operating budget due to a drastic decrease in federal Ryan White CARE funds San Francisco received earlier this year. The budget cuts forced layoffs for ALRP staff and a reduction in legal services for clients. Executive Director Bill Hirsh pointed out, however, that through grassroots fundraising, ALRP was able to recoup more than 50 percent of its lost funding and hopes to make up the balance with this event through corporate sponsorships and ticket sales.

ALRP will recognize several people for their service to the agency and their commitment to people living with HIV/AIDS. Among the honorees are former

San Francisco AIDS Foundation Executive Director Pat Christen. ALRP panel attorneys Cary Kletter and Yosef Peretz of Kletter & Peretz will receive this year's "Attorney of the Year" honors. The law firm of the year award will go to Buchalter Nemer Fields & Younger for granting ALRP a five-year \$25,000 law clerk scholarship fund. The Wells Fargo Foundation will receive the Community Partner Award.

Tickets for the reception start at \$50 per person. For more information, call Jim McBride, development director, at (415) 701-1200, ext. 301, or visit [www.alrp.org](http://www.alrp.org).

## Women's Building gala

San Francisco's Women's Building turns 25 this year, and several events have already been held celebrating the milestone. Now, the organization's star-studded gala director is set to take place Thursday, October 7 at the Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue, starting at 6:30 p.m. A VIP party will follow in the Green Room upstairs at 9.

Scheduled performers include actress Rita Moreno, actor Danny Glover, Margie Adam, Janice Mirikitani, Linda Tillery, Holly Near, Ronnie Gilbert, and Cris Williamson. Speakers include Gloria Steinem and Women's Building Executive Director Teresa Mejia.

The benefit will pay tribute to the Women's Building's rich history, honoring the many generations of women who have made the building what it is today. The multi-service community center provides a wide array of services for women and girls.

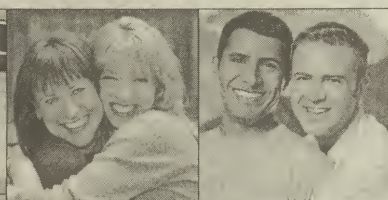
Tickets to next week's gala start at \$150 per person and can be purchased online at [www.womensbuilding.org](http://www.womensbuilding.org) or call (510) 843-8048.

## New radio show

It may be short (15 minutes), but Eric Jansen, David Latulippe, and Susanna J. Hines will host a new, weekly gay-themed radio news and commentary show starting Thursday, October 7 on KALW 91.7 FM, the public radio station licensed to the San Francisco Unified School District. Called "Out in the Bay," the locally produced program will recap top news items of importance to the LGBT community, along with commentaries by Hines. The show will air at 7:45 p.m. Thursdays, between "AIDS Update" and "This Way Out," a national LGBT program. The program will air on a

page 12 ►

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Lazy bears pony up cash



John Philomeni/Celebrity

Harry Lit, right, of Castro Bear Presents and an organizer of Lazy Bear Weekend, shakes hands with Bob Young, owner of the Russian River Eagle, as Sacramento Valley Bear Club member Darren Besoyan, center, looks on during the check presentation September 25 for beneficiaries of the July event held at the Russian River. A total of \$153,000 was handed out to numerous HIV/AIDS organizations.

## Stop AIDS Project searches for new leader

by Matthew S. Bajko

As its executive director steps down today (Thursday, September 30), the Stop AIDS Project finds itself without a full-time leader for the agency. The agency's board of directors failed to name an interim executive director in time and is still interviewing candidates for the position.

Darlene Weide announced in August that September 30 would be her last day on the job. At the time board President Thomas Bruein said an interim person would be named to the post and begin in early September. He said the board wanted to have a 30-day overlap to help with the transition.

But as of Tuesday, September 28, the board had yet to name any-

one to fill Weide's position on an interim basis as it launches a national search for a permanent executive director. Bruein did not respond to a request for comment, and instead referred questions to agency spokesman Jason Riggs.

Riggs said the agency's management team, along with the board of directors and board president, would manage the day-to-day operations for the time being. He said the agency expects the arrangement to last for only a "short period."

"We are interviewing finalists and expect to have an interim ED in place very quickly," Riggs said.

To conduct a national search for a permanent person, Riggs said the agency has hired Compass Point to help it identify qualified candidates. He did not know how much

the search firm's services were costing the agency. The search firm will also help the agency assess what it seeks in its new leader.

Being a successful fundraiser is expected to be at the top of the list. The agency lost its federal funding this year and is relying on city contracts and individual support. The agency's budget for fiscal year 2004 is \$1.4 million.

Weide spent six years with the agency, three as its executive director. Before being officially given the position, she shared management duties with Steve Gibson, the agency's former program director who left to run Magnet, the gay men's health center in the Castro.

According to Stop AIDS' 2003 financial statements, Weide received \$65,000 in salary and \$4,168 in benefits. ▼

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Volume 34, Number 40  
30 September 2004

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## Of outings and boycotts

Over the past few months, gay activists have outed Republican members of Congress who have antigay voting records. The actions seek to expose the blatant hypocrisy inherent in the fact that there are closeted politicians who would rather vote against equality than be honest about who they are. The latest target is California's own David Dreier, the powerful 12-term congressman who is chair of the House Rules Committee. Dreier has ducked the Big Question ("Are you gay?") and has been aided and abetted by friendly newspapers in his district that have ignored the recent revelations in *L.A. Weekly* and on Mike Rogers's Blogactive.com Web site.

In this age of full disclosure and accountability, in which journalists and others are being questioned about campaign contributions and ties to various political activities, often by conservative-leaning media outlets and weblogs, it's time that politicians come out of the closet and be held to the same standard. Voters have a right to know why a politician votes for or against legislation. If Dreier is gay, as has been reported, he needs to explain why he voted for the Marriage Protection Act, which would prevent federal courts from hearing cases related to the Defense of Marriage Act. He is on record as being against the Federal Marriage Amendment, but hasn't elaborated on his position. If he thinks his stand on this one piece of legislation is enough to keep him safely in his closet, he's wrong.

President Bush, whom Dreier supports, is using gay rights as a wedge issue in this campaign and his minions are using the prospect of gay marriage to get undecided voters to the polls. It's not right and Dreier knows it.

National Coming Out Day is fast approaching and Congressman Dreier should use the occasion to stand up for himself.

With the October 11 Coming Out Day

nearing, gay Atlanta resident Dale Duncan wants all of us to participate in a gay boycott. Unfortunately, the parameters of the planned protest are unrealistic and Duncan seems tone deaf to legitimate concerns many have raised relating to class issues and how such a boycott would affect gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses.

Briefly, Duncan is calling for a boycott on Friday, October 8 and asking LGBT people to skip work (but not tell their bosses why), skip trips to the shopping malls, and skip using their cell phones. Last week Duncan added another item — every gay person should withdraw \$80 from ATM machines in an effort to

bring the banking industry to a halt by exhausting the cash machines.

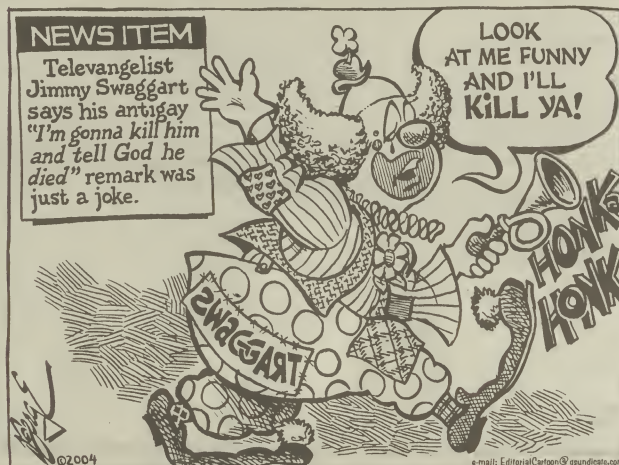
The last idea is ridiculous, of course. Aside from the fact that thousands of LGBT people don't have an extra \$80 to withdraw in the first place, the odds of such an action shutting down ATM machines are laughable. We couldn't find one person in the financial services field who actually thinks that will happen.

To be successful, boycotts must be extremely focused. A single objective often works best, as evidenced by the Coors boycott that has never really ended.

Duncan's plan meets none of the criteria for this threshold and members of the LGBT community would be wise to skip the boycott. ▼



## Editorial



## Queer racism is nothing new

by Tommi Avicoli Mecca

Racism within the queer community is nothing new.

How well I remember marching outside of gay bars in Philadelphia in the fall of 1972 to protest carding policies that kept out blacks and women. I was with the Gay Liberation Front, an organization that viewed the struggle against homophobia as part of the fight against all other forms of oppression. That's why we supported the Black Panthers, women's liberation, and the antiwar movement. We even attended the Black Panthers convention at Temple University in 1970.

Our group was racially integrated, unlike many other queer organizations at the time. We held gay dances at Temple, which aroused the ire of the administration, not because they were queer (after all, we were a chartered student group) but because of the large presence of blacks from the nearby community, blacks the university displaced as it expanded into the surrounding neighborhoods.

The efforts of early gay liberation groups, including ours, to build bridges ultimately prompted Huey Newton, then-chair of the Black Panthers, to issue his historic letter in support of gay and women's liberation.

As we picketed night after night, sometimes in the freezing rain, we were asked by white bar patrons why we were attacking our own establishments. Our answer was always the same: If they discriminated, they were not part of our community. If they sought to divide us, they were not worth supporting.

Unfortunately, our demos did not stop discriminatory carding policies within the community. No matter how many times racism in the queer community was confronted, nothing ever seemed to change in the "City of Brotherly Love."

Apparently, the same is also true here in

the City of St. Francis. Local gay historian Don Romesburg demonstrates this in "Racism and Reaction in the Castro — A Brief, Incomplete History" (posted on the Internet). Starting with a 1975 picket outside of the Mine Shaft by members of Bay Area Gay Liberation over alleged racial and sexual discrimination, Romesburg recounts a pattern of exclusionary policies in the gay mecca. In 1983 the local chapter of Black and White Men Together released a survey they had conducted of gay bars that pointed to widespread discrimination against people of color in gay businesses. A few years later, various queer groups picketed one Castro bar for alleged racist policies while Asian groups protested the exclusionary policy of another. I also remember a novelty store in the Castro that was taken to task for selling a ceramic that depicted a black stereotype.

More recently, the popular SF Badlands on 18th Street in the Castro has become the latest gay bar to be charged with discriminatory carding policies. The city's Human Rights Commission, which has received 20 sworn testimonies recounting allegations of "unfair scrutiny, unwarranted denial of entry and eviction without cause," is looking into the matter. SF Badlands owner Les Natali denies that his bar discriminates. "And Castro for All," a community coalition of groups and individuals concerned about racism in the queer community, is planning a march Friday, October 1, at 5 p.m., assembling at the LGBT Community Center (Market and Laguna streets) and proceeding up Market to the Castro. The group, which has been organizing around this issue since the beginning of June, wants to change the way the Castro does business. It wants to make the Castro more diverse, a place where everyone feels welcomed.

Creating a truly diverse Castro will involve not only changing carding and hiring

policies at gay businesses but also the predominantly white male makeup of the neighborhood itself. Why is it so white? Is it because gay white men statistically make more than men of color, transgender folks, and women, so they can afford the higher rentals? Would a person of color, a transgender person, or a woman with an income equal to a white man be as likely to actually get an apartment?

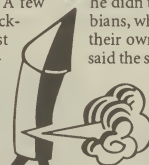
Some might answer "no." Marlon Riggs, in his groundbreaking film *Tongues Untied*, said that as an African American gay man he didn't feel welcomed in the Castro. Lesbians, who have no bar or meeting space of their own in the neighborhood, have often said the same thing. When a homeless queer youth shelter was proposed for the Castro a few years ago, some residents and businesses wanted to ship it off to Mars or at least the Tenderloin. The youth group LYRIC (Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center) was similarly made to feel like

an outsider when it resided on Collingwood Street. All of this of course flies in the face of the Castro's worldwide reputation as a refuge for all.

A lot of work needs to be done. And Castro for All has started the ball rolling. Its success will depend in large part on more people becoming involved. The group has already garnered the support of activists and politicians alike. More help is needed. Go to [www.isbadlandsbad.com](http://www.isbadlandsbad.com) for more info. And come to the march on October 1.

Ending racism is everybody's business. ▼

Tommi Avicoli Mecca is a southern Italian queer activist, writer, and member of And Castro for All who lives in the Castro. He contributes a weekly column to [sanfranciscosentinel.com](http://sanfranciscosentinel.com) and occasional op-eds to the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*.



## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## Too much sex in paper

In regards to the September 23 arts and entertainment section: why?

I can't just sit back and not express myself on this one. What is with this never ending gratuitous sexual content in any and all gay publications? I was quite put off by the cover page of last week's arts and entertainment section. Why is it that gay men have to have everything revolve around sex and image? Are all of these sexually explicit photographs really necessary in one of our only newspapers? I was shocked to find it in the B.A.R. because this is one of the few places where sex is not constantly thrown in your face. I would like to feel secure in assuming that we, as the LGBT community, do not always have to be sexually stimulated to pay attention. However, it is hard to feel this way when sexual stimulation is just short of mandatory for any media to be effective. I understand that it is a ploy to appeal to those who will pay attention, but when does it end? Can we for once not display or talk about porn, sex, cuteness, sexiness, etc.? Isn't there more to us than that?

I realize that my reaction to this one page is quite strong. It may even be an overreaction, but am I alone in feeling that we are overly obsessed with sex and image? Isn't there more to us? Can we have our newspaper focus on news? Can we have an arts and entertainment section that speaks about intellectually and culturally stimulating movies, plays, and so on? I admit that porn is a real, valid part of our culture and I am not discounting this, but if you open to the Datebook section in the *Chronicle*, would you find a full cover page about porn? Probably not, so, why in the B.A.R.?

Chadwick Campbell  
San Francisco

## Clear the fog around marriage

It's time for us to clear the fog surrounding gay marriage – before it's too late.

First, Americans are terrified that their sacred religious institutions will be forced to perform gay marriage ceremonies. However, due to the separation of church and state written into the U.S. Constitution, this can never, ever happen. Let's make that perfectly clear.

Second, most Americans don't know the difference between church marriage and legal marriage. A church marriage is not a legal marriage: simply going through a church ceremony does not entitle the participants to any legal rights, privileges, or benefits. And a legal marriage does not require a church marriage. You don't even have to be Christian – or religious at all – to be legally married. You also don't have to be in love, fertile, or even straight. All that matters in legal marriage is that one party is female and the other is male. Changing this specific point is what gay marriage is about.

Third, legal marriage bestows more than 1,000 rights, privileges, and benefits. Denying these to a class of people based solely on their sexuality is bigotry. Americans sugarcoat their opposition to gay marriage in all sorts of ways: respect for tradition, defense of the status quo, love the sinner/hate the sin, and, for goodness sake, what about the children? We need to cut through this crap and call bigotry for what it is.

One by one, states are passing constitutional amendments barring gay marriage that will be nearly impossible to repeal. Our leaders' completely ineffective response has been to focus on soft issues: "family," "recognition," "doing the right thing." We must clearly articulate exactly what gay marriage is – and what it is not – or else we will have no one to blame but ourselves for losing this battle.

Jeffery Kennedy  
San Francisco

## Swaggart's a dangerous man

I am a 51-year-old transgender female who arrived in this wonderful city two years ago. I moved here to come out, to transition, and to live a life that was impossible to live back in Texas. I was very active in the political scene there, both as a business owner, and as a Southern Baptist preacher. I was a leader in antigay and antitrans issues, and much of the time, I was even the instigator of the protests against the very things that I was trying so hard to hide in my own life.

I retired, came to San Francisco, and allowed the "real" me to emerge. I have never been happier. And I regret the harm I did to the gay and trans movement back home. I wish there were some way that I could undo the damage I did.

Having said that, however, I must confess that even if I were not the person I am today, I would be appalled at the statements that were made by the fundamentalist preacher Jimmy Swaggart ["Swaggart threatens to kill gay men," September 23]. I knew Swaggart, and although our theologies didn't always mesh, I felt he believed his teachings; he just had problems with his own identity. But my opinion has changed. I would never condone, and never support, any such statement or action such as what he stated. The idea that he would "kill him and tell God he died" as it pertains to same-sex marriage is such a dangerous state-

ment to make. There are people in this world – still – who listen and believe this man and his teachings, and would follow his ideas. If this is a sample of his teaching, then he has become a truly dangerous man.

There is never any excuse for violence. Just the thought that someone could die because he or she looked at another person with admiration or longing is abhorrent. I cannot, and I will not, and we must never condone or encourage this sort of behavior. As I sit at my favorite café in the Castro, ride the subways or busses, attend my church, or just live my life, I see children out there that are being taught love and tolerance and acceptance for everyone, no matter their ethnicity or gender or orientation, and this is such a wonderful thing. This is what drew me to this city. We need to perpetuate this, not the hate and fear of some angry, hurting, fundamentalist preacher that has issues so deeply seated in his own life that he has to hide those issues by attacking others. When I came out, and I allowed my friends and colleagues back in Texas to know of my changed life, I was met with statements such as, "Well, we always thought you were too zealous in your position." Perhaps, with this person, a similar statement could apply – "Surely he doth protest too much?"

Dawnne Woodie, Executive Director  
Outreach Program for Transgenders In Crisis  
San Francisco



## Mailstrom

## 'Gay Only Day' needed

I agree with Dale Duncan's idea to have a "drop out" boycott ["Local support slim for gay boycott," September 2] to demonstrate our economic importance, but I think his idea has gotten lukewarm response mostly because it's also at the expense of gay businesses. Instead, these businesses could remain open and

put a "Gay Owned and Operated" sign in their windows to help spawn a "Gay Only Day." This could generate a line out the door all day long at Marcello's and Injeanious. And I don't agree that the date should just be on October 8, once a year. I think it should be monthly, on the 3rd, whether it's a weekend or weekday. Gay businesses could even offer special deals on those days. Why the 3rd? Well, the three-sided pink triangle and the phrase "queer as a three dollar bill" come to mind, and we have the Three Dollar Bill Cafe at the LGBT center.

So, let's start Gay Only Day this October 3 and have it be a monthly tradition. Back in the 1970s many gay businesses in the Castro had "Gay Owned and Operated" signs in their windows. It doesn't have to be a complicated plan. If it doesn't jeopardize your employment, just schedule a vacation day or call in sick on the 3rd of the month and go support your local gay businesses.

Robert Meslinsky  
San Francisco

## Reggae promoter tried his best

Having been in radio for several years, I've had the great fortune of working closely with Michael Levine and his company, Events West, as a sponsor of several different events. It saddened me to see Michael's name associated with a controversy surrounding Reggae in the Park and homophobic artist Capleton ["Capleton dropped from reggae festival," September 16].

I firmly believe, knowing Levine, that he took every chance to take the high road and not stop with canceling the show, but to actually take the time to try to mediate an education process for Capleton.

Through the years I've seen Levine add acts to stages, for no other reason than to give a young or unknown act the chance to get their foot in the door by being onstage with an audience of 15,000 in front of them.

So I thank him for not immediately canceling Capleton, but for instead actually taking the time to attempt to make the world a little better place. Who knows, through mediation, Capleton might have just seen the light.

Joe Cooper  
San Francisco

## New voice for porn needed

Has John Karr ever met a mediocre porn video he didn't like?

Almost every week he litters your paper with reviews of lowest common denominator porn videos, describing them with adoration, mixed metaphors, dangling participles, and flowery prose (a 10th grade English teacher's nightmare).

One would almost suspect he only reviews videos that are sent complimentary from the studios he doesn't want to offend.

I realize his column has been a staple of your newspaper since his review of the last performance of *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theater, but times and tastes change.

How about a fresh viewpoint and easy to read text?

Kevin Keane  
San Francisco



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# Different = wonderful

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

I recently had a delightful experience.

My partner and I were grabbing a train into town recently, when we came upon a fellow traveler. I spotted him on the way to the platform, wearing a backpack festooned with various buttons and slogans. The biggest proclaimed the fun of playing with gender.

We kicked up a conversation that lasted much of the train ride, discussing where we're from, what we're doing, and all the other things about

which one transgender activist might talk with another. All the while, I was realizing how much the world has changed, and how happy I am for it.

Perhaps most pleasing for me was that ze was living in the same town as I, a small burg on the edge between suburbia and rural farmland. It's not the most conservative ground one can walk, but it's certainly not the most liberal, either.

It gave me hope, and the joy of knowing that even in exurban wastelands one can still find people willing to challenge just what is gender.

It wasn't always this way.

When I first discovered a nascent transgender community back in the early 1990s, one could seemingly only fit within one of two categories: crossdresser or transsexual. You simply had to be one or the other and, once chosen, you would be encouraged to remain within that category. Woe be to those who might start in one faction, then move to the other side.

This never felt right to me, but I did what I could to fit within one of these two tightly defined categories. Due to the prevail-

ing wisdom of the day, I simply had to be a crossdresser, as transsexuals were only attracted to men. I should probably add that female to male identity was not even considered amongst these two factions I was introduced into, hence when I use these terms in this old school format, I'm being frightfully male to female focused.

Eventually, I discovered that this category did not fit me, and I needed to move into a new identity. This was in spite of the protests of many in the nearest support group, who cautioned that I was making a big mistake. Move on I did, taking the mantle of transsexual. This fit better than what I had



before, but still seemed limiting, as if I had to edit myself in order to fit with the category. Frankly, I felt I had done enough self-editing before I found any sort of transgender community.

Finally, I realized I needed to travel beyond the limits of this binary. I had started to find those few outlaws out there willing to look for new horizons, and saw parts of myself. At that point, I adopted another label – that of transgender – and have applied it in the widest terms I can find. Simply put, I consider it to fit anyone who transcends the gender rules assigned to them at birth.

page 16 ►

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## POLITICS

# Democrats look to U.S. Senate

by Wayne Friday

With the current makeup of the U.S. Senate standing at 51 Republicans, 48 Democrats, and 1 independent (Vermont's **Jim Jeffords**), who votes with Democrats for organizational purposes, national Democrats are feeling pretty good about the possibility of taking control of the upper body of Congress after the November 2 elections and are mounting a major effort to do so.

In California, the most recent polls have Senator **Barbara Boxer** (D) leading her GOP opponent, **Bill Jones**, by as many as 18 to 20 percentage points. It appears that all the campaign appearances on behalf of Jones by the likes of moderate Republicans **Rudy Giuliani**, Arizona Senator **John McCain**, and even Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** don't seem to make a dent in the Boxer advantage. You can pretty safely call this one now for Boxer; she wins big on November 2.

Senator **Ron Wyden** (D) should win comfortably in Oregon; Democratic Minority Whip **Harry Reid** likely will win re-election in Nevada; Senator **Patty Murray** (D) will hold onto her Washington seat, despite the millions being poured into TV ads by the GOP there; and Democrat **Tony Knowles**, a popular former governor, is expected to win a close contest in Alaska, where his opponent, Senator **Lisa Murkowski**, was appointed to the seat by her governor father.

True, the Democrats will need a bit of political luck to regain control of the Senate, but as I just noted, they are holding their own in the Western states. There are five Democratic seats up for grabs in the South. Republicans look like winners in Georgia (now held by the retiring Democrat-in-name-only **Zell Miller**, a Bush supporter), and possibly in South Carolina (where Democrat **Fritz Hollings** is retiring), so the GOP could conceivably pick up two seats in the South. Democrat **Betty Castro**, however, is expected to hold onto the Florida seat, and Democrat **Chris John** should hold onto retiring Senator **John Breaux's** (D) seat in Louisiana. If Democrats can hold three of these five seats they look to be in good shape.

In Illinois, **Barack Obama** is a Democratic pickup. Democratic state Attorney General **Ken Salazar** should also pick up a GOP-held seat in Colorado, despite the millions of dollars being spent by antigay beer scion **Peter Coors**, the Republican. In Oklahoma, veteran GOP Senator **Don Nickles** is retiring, and Democrat **Brad Carson** is given a better-than-even chance of taking that seat from the GOP.

Finally, there is South Dakota, where Senate Minority Leader **Tom Daschle** should (he is slightly favored) hold onto his seat, despite millions of dollars being spent in the state by the national Republican Party on behalf of challenger **John Thune**, a former congressman.



Dennis Herrera and Therese Stewart shown earlier this year in court when antigay groups were trying to stop the City Hall weddings.

As **CALPEEK's Dick Rosen-garten** put it: "All the coin flips have to go in the right direction, so don't bet the ranch." I believe that not only does **John Kerry** unseat **George Bush** on November 2, but Democrats regain control of the U.S. Senate as well.

## Supre race observations

Regarding the upcoming San Francisco supervisory races (these are observations, not endorsements): District 1—Incumbent **Jake McGoldrick** is considered the weakest of the incumbents seeking re-election. Retired Judge **Lillian Sing** is the

frontrunner to replace McGoldrick, with well-known businessman **David Heller** a surprisingly strong dark horse. District 5—The top tier of candidates to replace retiring **Matt Gonzalez** are Democrats **Robert Haaland** and **Bill Barnes** and Green Party activists **Ross Mirkarimi** and **Lisa Feldstein**. District 7—Supervisor **Sean Elsbernd**, appointed last month by Mayor **Gavin Newsom**, is the frontrunner and likely winner; Elsbernd's competition isn't that stiff, but ranked choice voting could be a factor in this race. District 11: Incumbent Supervisor **Gerardo Sandoval** is weak, and failed to get the important Democratic Party endorsement. Sandoval, however, has the advantage of incumbency, name-recognition, good neighborhood support, and lots of campaign money in the race against retiring Planning Commissioner **Myrna Lim** and former Supervisor **Jose Medina** (**Rebecca Silverberg** is also in this contest). Unlike McGoldrick in District 1, Sandoval should win this race somewhat comfortably.

In the endorsement race, District 5 candidate **Robert Haaland** picked up the backing of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and has been endorsed by District 10 **Supre Sophie Maxwell**. Meanwhile in District 1, Mayor **Gavin Newsom** endorsed retired Judge **Lillian Sing**.

## Politics and people

San Francisco City Attorney **Dennis Herrera** and his chief deputy, out lesbian **Therese Stewart**, were named among the "Top 100 Lawyers" in California in a survey published in the *Daily Journal*, the state's largest legal publication. Reflecting votes from some 1,500 members of the near-

ly 150,000 active state bar members, the survey noted Herrera's political courage in embracing the fight for marriage equality. The paper called Stewart a "standout advocate in the city's attempts to allow same-sex marriage."

I keep getting asked about the somewhat confusing gaming propositions on the November ballot (Propositions 68 and 70); they take a bit of intense reading, but I'm playing it safe and voting no on both 68 and 70 for those who have asked.

The presidential debates: The first of the three presidential debates takes place tonight (Thursday, September 30), from the University of Miami in Coral Gables; 6 p.m. Pacific time, and it's all about the first one tonight folks—**John Kerry** must do well or I'm afraid there won't be many watching the remaining two. Those, incidentally, will take place on October 8 at Washington University in St. Louis and October 13 at Arizona State University in Tempe. The lone vice presidential debate between Senator **John Edwards** and Vice President **Dick Cheney** will take place on October 5 at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

And in Sacramento, word is that termed-out Lieutenant Governor **Crux Bustamante** will run for state insurance commissioner in 2006 and has already created a fundraising committee for that purpose.

Meanwhile, Republicans in Sacramento don't seem to be in any hurry to get off Secretary of State **Kevin Shelley's** back, and the *Sacramento Bee* has become the first big newspaper to editorially call for Shelley's resignation over alleged improprieties stemming from some campaign contributions as well as oversight of federal election funds.

Are they getting nervous, or what? Leaks out of Washington have it that if things look bad for President Bush as November approaches, **Karl Rove's** machine will reveal that plans "in the second Bush administration" call for appointing two moderate, popular Republicans: ex-New York Mayor **Rudy Giuliani** as attorney general and Arizona Senator **John McCain** as secretary of defense. (Hey, Mr. Mayor and Senator McCain, don't give up your current jobs too quickly, I think Dubya and Rove are in for a surprise.) And how was your week? ▼

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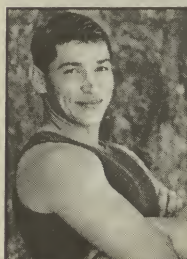
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# Questionable ethics and bad journalism of outing

by Dale Carpenter

First used during the AIDS crisis in the late 1980s, outing has been mostly moribund for more than a decade. Now a couple of activists in Washington, D.C., abetted by a few media outlets, have revived it. While outing is justifiable under very narrow circumstances, these recent outings have not met the proper ethical and journalistic standards for doing so.

In recent months, activists Michael Rogers and John Aravosis have claimed that more than 20 members of Congress and congressional staffers are secretly gay. Their claims have been reported in a few gay and alternative newspapers, and have been repeated by Internet bloggers. The goal is to expose the hypocrisy of closeted antigay politicians and of closeted staff members who work for antigay politicians. This will presumably make closeted gays think twice before supporting antigay causes, especially the Federal Marriage Amendment.

Aravosis, himself a former aide to antigay Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), has compared the outing campaign to nuclear war. "Mutual assured destruction worked once," he argues, referring to the super-

power confrontation during the Cold War. "Maybe it will again."

In the style of a person convinced the world needs him, Aravosis uses an overwrought metaphor. But it is also unintentionally apt. Destruction is the key, for outing has the potential to destroy lives and families. It has the whiff of cannibalism about it.

Uplifting the cause of individual rights, it sacrifices real individuals. Defending a movement that has exalted privacy, it destroys personal privacy. Combating homophobia, it relies on homophobia for its power. On its best days, outing is a nasty business.

Nevertheless, outing is justifiable as an ethical and journalistic matter when two criteria are met.

First, the outing person's homosexuality must be directly relevant to some matter of public policy.

Hypocrisy by an officeholder meets this test, as when a closeted politician opposes gay equality for homophobic reasons. An example would be a legislator who declares marriage must be "defended" from gay couples while he has extramarital homosexual affairs.

It is not enough, however, that a closeted politician opposes a gay rights proposal if the basis for the opposition is non-homophobic. For example, an officeholder might oppose an employment non-discrimination law on the ground that such laws are counterproductive or too costly for employers. She may be wrong; hypocritical she is not.

The relevance requirement would be met by someone like Senator Rick Santorum (R-Pennsylvania), who has made clear the homophobic basis for his opposition to gay equality. For the most part, the members of Congress outed by Rogers and Aravosis meet this first standard.

But others, including the congressional staff members outed in some gay newspapers, do not meet the relevance requirement. Unlike officeholders, staffers do not vote on public policy. Many work on matters, like environmental policy, that have nothing to do with gay issues.

The main purpose in outing such people is retributive; it is punishment for aiding the enemy, however indirectly. That is an impulse I share, but it is not a matter

of public concern.

Even as a device for helping the gay cause, outing congressional staffers is dubious since they can be useful sources of information about antigay legislative strategy only if they remain closeted. It's true that outing might deter a few people from working for antigay officeholders. But that's almost useless since there's no shortage of eager applicants to take such jobs.

Second, there must be credible evidence made available to the public that establishes the person is probably homosexual.

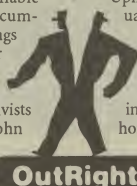
We must demand that this burden of proof be met because the cost of error can be very high. Outed individuals may lose their jobs, get cut off from their parents and friends, and lose their families — even if they're not really gay. We must also demand credible proof because, frankly, hearsay about celebrity homosexuality is as common as sand on a beach. Is there a movie star, ball player, or politician who hasn't been rumored to dilly-dally?

Few of the recent outings claimed by Rogers and Aravosis, and reported by some gay newspapers, meet this second requirement. If there is an adequate basis for believing that these outed politicians or staffers are gay, the public has often not been given that information.

In one case, a congressman was outed on the basis of an audiotape provided by an anonymous source who claimed the recorded voice was that of the congressman soliciting gay sex. There was no way to verify the information and no way to judge its credibility. That the congressman subsequently dropped his re-election bid lent some credence to the story, but only after the fact.

In another case, the *Washington Blade* reported in its July 23, 2004, issue that a named person working for the Republican Party had been "outed by local activists." That was it. While the article detailed the person's ties to antigay officeholders, it provided no basis for believing the person is gay other than the unsubstantiated claims of Aravosis and Rogers themselves. That is not journalism; it is gossip.

The desire to punish the wartime traitor, to make an example of him, is understandable. But we must first be convinced that there really has been treason and that punishment will accomplish more than simply inflicting pain. ▼



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# Battery on Muni

by Jane Warner

**J**-Church Muni line, Church and Market, September 24, 12:15 p.m.: A woman riding the Muni coach was sitting alone on a bench seat when a man boarded at the Church Street station. Although the coach was nearly empty, the man seated himself directly next to her. "Why don't you sit somewhere else?" the woman asked. "I can sit anywhere I want, you stupid bitch," the man answered. "This isn't Guan-tanamo Bay." A heated argument ensued to the point where the driver stopped and went back to intervene between the two. Fearing for her safety, the woman got up to leave when the suspect kicked her in the shin. The woman

kicked the suspect back, striking a blow between the man's legs. Other passengers got up and physically separated the two. The suspect is described as a white male, 45 to 50 years old, with red hair. He got off the bus at 20th and Church and fled in an unknown direction. Police responded to the scene but were unable to find him.

## Bike theft

**100 block of Dolores Street, September 25, 11:25 p.m.:** While sitting in her apartment, a woman heard noises coming from the hallway outside her front door. Looking through the peephole, she saw a man with bolt cutters, cutting the lock from her bicycle. Before the woman could open the door, the man cut through the lock and fled with the



**Crime & Punishment**

# Gay man seeks witnesses in battery case

by Cynthia Laird

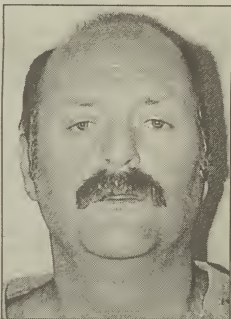
**W**hat started out as a walk to the store turned violent for a gay San Francisco man, who is now seeking witnesses to an attack that left him injured.

Michael Stars, 42, a Nob Hill resident for 16 years, was walking west on Pine Street to go to the store at about 9:30 p.m. last Thursday, September 23. When he reached the intersection of Pine and Taylor streets, he saw a woman and a man with two dogs, who were playing. Stars made a comment to the woman, saying, "Traffic jams and dog fights," in reference to heavy traffic on the street and the dogs engaged in rough play. The unidentified man said, "What? Shut up you bald motherfucker faggot," and continued to yell at him. Stars returned home and called police but got a busy signal on the non-emergency line. Feeling he should have some documentation, Stars got his camera and returned to the scene to get a picture of the man.

By the time he returned, the woman had left but the man was still sitting on the steps of the apartment complex in the 1000 block of Pine Street. Stars took his picture, and the man then allegedly lashed out, Stars told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"He jumped up and called me an 'ugly, bald-headed, faggot motherfucker,' and threatened to kick my ass," Stars said.

The man went after Stars to the corner where he could not cross the street because of the traffic. The man then grabbed Stars' shirt as Stars yelled for someone to call police. The suspect tried to get Stars' camera, but could not, and



Battery victim Michael Stars

instead punched him in the face with his free hand, knocking Stars into the corner of a building.

Several road workers managed to get the man to stop his assault, while a young couple who witnessed the incident called 911.

After meeting with police, Stars went to the hospital where he was treated for facial injuries.

Now, Stars is asking that witnesses who may have seen the incident to contact him or police. He told the *B.A.R.* that police have indicated they don't have much to go on without the public coming forward.

In his efforts to get assistance, Stars met Monday with Community United Against Violence and has sent copies of the incident to various public officials.

"Just because the physical damage is not permanent does not mean that this individual is not a threat to me or that he should be allowed to go unpunished," Stars said.

Anyone with information can e-mail Stars at michaelstars@isp.com. ▼

bike out the front door. The woman called police, who responded to the scene and searched the area for the suspect, described as a white male, 20 to 30 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing 160 pounds, with blond hair. He was wearing a dark colored, hooded sweatshirt and baggy jeans. The woman told officers that the stolen green Trek bike was worth about \$300.

## Burglary

**Beck's Motorlodge, 2222 Market Street, September 25, 12:48 a.m.:** While in the bathroom, a man heard someone open the door to his room. Thinking it was his partner, he thought nothing of it until he came out of the bathroom and saw a stranger standing next to him. "What are you doing here?" the man screamed. Without saying anything, the suspect grabbed the man's Sony laptop that was sitting on the table and fled out the door down Market Street. The man called police, who searched the area but could not find the suspect. Officers determined the burglar gained entry to the room by reaching through an open window and then unlocking the deadbolt. The suspect is described as African American, 28 to 33 years old, 6 feet 1 inch tall. He wore a beige hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.

## Correction

The September 23 article on former Congressman Gerry Studds ["Studds to be honored for his leadership"] contained an anecdote that the *Bay Area Reporter* later learned was inaccurate. While Mr. Studds did come out as gay and publicly denounced a House vote to censure him, he did not hold a news conference with his male page standing by his side.

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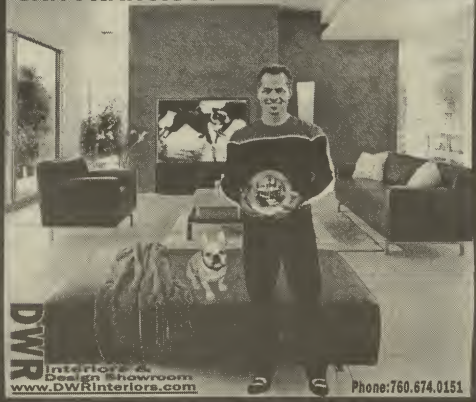
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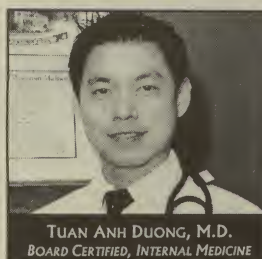
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## Deadline near for homeowners, renters assistance program

by John Iversen

**A**re you 62 years of age or older, blind, or disabled? State Board of Equalization Chairwoman Carole Migden wants to remind people that they may qualify for the state of California Homeowners and Renters Assistance program.

The program requires a 2003 total household income of under \$38,505. Renters must have paid \$50 or more in rent per month in 2003 in California.

According to an announcement from Migden, "The HRA program has been in existence since 1968. Legislation enacted in 1972 reduced the minimum age requirement from 65 years to 62 years. Legislation enacted in 1977 extended assistance to renters. Beginning in 1979, assistance was extended to homeowners and renters who are totally disabled, regardless of age."

The maximum assistance payment for homeowners is \$472. The renter maximum is \$347. The



BOE Chairwoman Carole Migden

number of HRA claimants has increased since the inception of the program. In 1968 claimants numbered 57,354 homeowners. Last year 156,506 homeowners and 650,248 renters benefited from the program, according to Migden.

Betty Yee, Migden's chief deputy at the Board of Equalization, pointed out that in the 2000-01 state budget Democrats and then-Governor Gray Davis "increased the assistance under the HRA Program by 150 percent, providing an additional \$154 million in assistance for the 2000

claim year only."

Maximum renter assistance peaked at \$600 under Davis, Yee does not expect any increases from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"The California Performance Review report proposes to phase out the homeowner assistance portion of the HRA program, and instead, rely on the property tax postponement program to provide similar relief to homeowners," said Yee.

Yee said most neighborhood assistance groups should be able to provide help in filling out the forms. Ann Speyer, case manager at Oakland's Center for AIDS Services, has been aiding many clients with their applications for the past five years.

For more information, call (800) 868-4171, ext. 816, or visit the FTB Web site at [www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov) to get the address of the nearest HRA volunteer site. People can also pick up Form 9000H/9000R at their local state Franchise Tax Board office and file claims. The filing deadline is October 15. ▼

### News in brief

◀ page 4

trial basis through December, Jansen said.

#### Breast cancer survivor program

October is Breast Cancer

Awareness Month, and the Stanford Breast Center will celebrate survivorship and promote awareness of the disease at a free open house Thursday, October 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Stanford Cancer Center Courtyard, 875 Blake Wilbur Drive, in Stanford. The free, daylong event includes product features, giveaways, breast

health education, and much more, according to Helen Allrich, media relations coordinator for Stanford Hospital and Clinics. Allrich said that last year's inaugural event was very successful and expects a good turnout this year. To RSVP or for more information, call (650) 736-7673 or e-mail [tfallecker@stanfordmed.org](mailto:tfallecker@stanfordmed.org). ▼



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**12 PFAG Tuesday, October 12 6pm @ STOP AIDS Office, 2128 15th St** The Positive force advisory group meets monthly as an opportunity to have a say and get involved with the programming we design for HIV positive gay and bi men - bring us your ideas and see them become reality!

**14 CAFE POZ Thursday, October 14, 1pm @ Castro Country Club, 4058 18th St** Ready for a new afternoon routine? Make a date with other HIV+ men at Cafe Positive, the daytime social support event that's open to every one. Gab with the guys about the latest treatment news flash and what you think is around the corner. Beverages and light lunch are on us.

**20 POSITIVE FORCE BOOK CLUB** Wednesday, October 20, 6pm @ The SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St Join the guys of Positive Force at their Book Club. Stay up on the latest reading while connecting with other HIV+ gay and bi men. For more info, please call 575-0150 x231.

**27 H CAFE** Wednesday, October 27, 6:30pm @ H Café, 1701 17th St Feeling the mid-week blues? Need a way to help finish off the month on an up note? Well, H Cafe is the place to be. The guys of Positive Force are out "en mass" at this great event.

**29 MAILING PARTY** Friday, October 29, 12pm @ STOP AIDS Office, 2128 15th St Spend an afternoon helping us get out Positive Force monthly calendar in the mail and lunch is on us. It's a great way to connect with other guys and get some volunteering in!



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# District 9 candidates exhibit subtle differences in forum

by Kevin Davis

Three District 9 supervisorial candidates took part in a panel Monday September 27 organized by the Mission Community Council and much of the discussion focused on the need for more services in the district.

An organizer labeled the panel, a "conversation," not a forum, and did not include all the candidates. It was

held at the Iglesia Centro Comunitario Santa Maria y Santa Marta.

Incumbent Supervisor Tom Ammiano, Horizons Foundation board member Miguel Bustos, and immigrants' rights advocate and attorney Renee Saucedo offered visions, commitments, and public service histories while covering issues such as public safety, Latino day laborers, street vendors, the fate of San Francisco General Hospital, youth substance

abuse, and more.

There are six candidates vying for the seat, which represents the Mission and Bernal Heights.

Moderator Bob Nelson, executive director of Dolores Street Community Services, directed nonprofit representatives to question the candidates, beginning with the broad issue of youth education, health, and development.

Ammiano stressed repeatedly the effectiveness of "wraparound services" and peer counseling. He plugged Proposition H, which guarantees preschool to all city 4-year-olds regardless of the family's income, and promoted making schools sensitive to new U.S. residents.

"Families need a variety of culturally competent services — health, emotional, citizenship," he said.

Saucedo, who has juvenile justice system experience, felt strongly about preventing police from entering school campuses unnecessarily, instead supporting creating alternatives to incarceration. She specifically warned against using the Youth Guidance Center as a solution to truancy, and criticized the recent addition of Guardian Angels patrolling Mission District streets.

"Youth deserve opportunity, not militarization of the community," she said.

Bustos, who reminded the multicultural audience of his childhood on Harrison Street, stressed after school programs to "get kids off the street."

Not surprisingly, in arguably one of the most liberal neighborhoods in the city, all three candidates gave thumbs down to Care Not Cash.

Saucedo, as the city's day labor program director and Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition member, believes that the mayor's homeless policy threatens shelter beds for homeless Latino immigrants. She also committed to end city property sales to balance the city budget. Saucedo floated the



District 9 supervisor candidates Miguel Bustos, Renee Saucedo, and incumbent Tom Ammiano debate the issues at a community forum Monday.

idea of investing in a fulltime Sacramento lobbyist to expand rent control.

Bustos advocated bilingual, accessible homeless shelters. "Latino men go where they feel comfortable," he said.

"Listen to the homeless," said Ammiano, who promoted culturally competent and sensitive shelters and who has collaborated with the Coalition on Homelessness. "They have the best ideas."

Ammiano touted his "F" grade voting record from the business community.

On the topic of keeping the Mission family-centered, Bustos stressed safety and better landscaping of public parks. "Elders can't walk down the street at night," said Bustos. "Kids can't play in the streets. That's not right."

He recalled the struggle of staging an Easter egg hunt in Garfield Park's many dirt patches.

"In the Marina District they can hide eggs in the grass. It's hard to hide eggs in the dirt," he said.

Ammiano spoke of his recent op-ed article calling the Mission a "treasure" and denying its reputation as a "killing ground."

He suggested safe, fun forms of youth recreation like filmmaking and artistic expression and urged people to also look at communities of faith. "People want an expression of the spiritual," he said. "Keep education accountable to parents," said Saucedo, a third generation San Franciscan. "We need sufficient, adequate public education, not privatization schemes."

Ammiano, a former teacher, promoted a "welcoming" curriculum and expanded outreach and sanctuary to parents fearing their immigrant status threatens their children's schooling.

"Dream schools should meet their promises," said Ammiano. "No two-tiered education."

"Kids with engaged parents are not as likely to drop out," said Bustos. He also promoted clearer communication with newcomers. "People come into my campaign

office who fear if they make a mistake in voting, they will get deported," he said.

"We should welcome immigrants with open arms," said Saucedo, who urged exploring a hospitable shelter site for undocumented immigrants. "It would be a model for the country."

All three candidates had harsh words for "big box" national chain merchants, especially the proposed Cortland Avenue Home Depot, with Bustos foreseeing its eventuality and arguing to hold the company to its promise of full benefits for all workers.

Ammiano called the company "extremely disingenuous" and criticized its "bullying tactics." He promoted conditional use permits for such projects as a way to make outside businesses accountable.

"They exploit their workforce," said Saucedo. "Bayview residents say 'hell no' we don't want that. We want living wage jobs with benefits."

Regarding health care, Ammiano blamed outdated software for the health department "losing millions in reimbursements." He advocated peer counseling for substance abuse. He called San Francisco General Hospital, a teaching hospital, "a grand lady and we're treating her badly" and blamed the hospital's reputation for alcoholic waiting room brawls on "a class issue."

Saucedo criticized what she called a six-month waiting list for methadone treatment and promoted treatment on demand.

She left district voters with a promise to let the "community provide the vision for my office."

If elected, Bustos committed to opening a district office.

"I am the institutional memory," said Ammiano, while concluding with a note of humility, "I'm not adverse to passing the torch in four years."

Bustos's concluding summation marked the event's first subtle dig at a challenger. "I'm not supported by the machine," he said. "I haven't been anointed." ▼

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# 'Mayor of love' visits Cesar Chavez

by Louis Anthes

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and the heads of the various city departments talked about public safety and numerous other issues as about 300 people crowded the auditorium of Cesar Chavez Elementary School in the Mission District Saturday, September 25.

The town hall meeting, the fifth to be held so far during Newsom's administration, is part of the mayor's effort to take City Hall "onto the streets of San Francisco," he explained to the audience members, who acknowledged his comments with resounding applause.

After a brief introduction, Newsom opened the two-hour meeting to questions from people speaking at an open mike and from people who wrote out questions on forms provided before the meeting. Most of the questions covered issues like community policing, "clean and green" environmental initiatives, after school programs, and controver-

sial plans to build a heliport for San Francisco General Hospital.

As important as the topics discussed was the manner in which the mayor emceed the whole event. Consistently, his responses to audience questions stressed the need to tackle problems from different angles — thwarting gangs by addressing unemployment, saving old trees and planting new ones to reduce crime, holding private property owners legally and financially accountable for removing graffiti. With the department heads seated be-

hind him, the Mayor athletically moved about the auditorium to call upon different officials to elaborate upon his administration's policies.

Overall, the impression was that despite unprecedented state budget cuts and the area's anemic economic recovery, City Hall has been finding creative ways to solve problems facing residents of the Mission.

Despite the outpouring of love for the mayor, as one audience member put it, Newsom's



Mayor Gavin Newsom addresses the crowd at Cesar Chavez Elementary School Saturday.

Jane Philomeno/Gelaid

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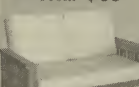
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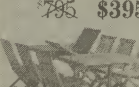
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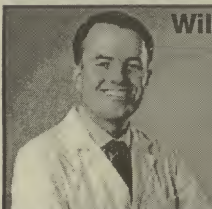
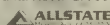
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## Castro St. Fair

◀ page 1

the competition will feature public speaking and talent presentations, and a swimwear display. Cutest of the Castro is hosted by Coral Smith from MTV's *The Real World* and Comcast's Tim Gaskin. The contest has caused a stir in the gay community, spurring angry letters, a community forum, and a planned protest by the group Gay Shame. The original benefiting organization, Maitri Hospice, withdrew from the pageant.

For the second year the fair welcomes the return of "Sugar Valley" on 18<sup>th</sup> street, an area dedicated to emerging artists who are from, work in, or are inspired by the Castro. "It's really a fair within a fair – the Mortville of the

event," said Sugar Valley "Sugar Momma" Flower Frankenstein. The area includes paintings, photography, sculpture installations, body painting, and interactive arts and games led by over 30 artists. The Sugar Valley stage will feature music and performances, as well as a lounge area.

Down the block at Magnet, a sexual health services organization, booths will provide anonymous HIV testing, information about Magnet's services, and the "Polaroid Penis Project" – an opportunity for attendees to have a snapshot taken of their flaccid penises. This project is the brainchild of director Steve Gibson, who created it to promote penile health, and to celebrate "realistic and diverse images of what most of us look like." Gibson characterized this as a response to the many enlarged, erect

and semi-erect images of men's members found in neighborhood storefronts and publications. All photographs will be displayed during October on Magnet's gallery wall. Participants may have a personal photo taken as well.

This year's fair is dedicated to the memory of festival founders Harvey Milk, Scott Smith, and Rick "Slick" Thomas, who died earlier this year. Organizers estimate it will raise \$75,000 for over 25 community nonprofits. ▼

The fair runs from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Market Street between Noe and Collingwood; Castro Street between Market and 19<sup>th</sup>; and 18<sup>th</sup> between Diamond and Noe in San Francisco. A \$3 per person donation is requested.

## Transmissions

◀ page 8

I'll admit to being fairly traditional in my gender presentation, and I'm comfortable with that. Nevertheless, I am glad to see so many others out there in this world willing to take it that much further than I.

I've known many who are, frankly, pretty uncomfortable with such. They'd prefer to see people not "mess" with gender, and remain careful in their presentation. Seeing someone do something different with gender, something that pulls a little from column "A" and a dash from column "B," just doesn't sit well.

In some ways it threatens them. Perhaps it even makes them worry that someone out there will figure out that they have transcended a gender rule or two over time, and they worry how the actions of others might cause them harm. After all, these others are challenging the norm, and sometimes forcing others to look at gender in a new light.

I'm not without compassion, mind you. As I already indicated, I'm still fairly traditional. I'm the sort of woman who fits pretty well within her gender, and is happy with it. I may not be a perfect fit –

my tendency toward somewhat androgynous attire and my enjoyment of my classic car take care of that – but I'm nevertheless not viewed as being too "out there" when it comes to feminine norms.

Nevertheless, I have a different view from those who might be threatened. Transgender expression of all types is still viewed as something on the fringe in this culture – just ask anyone who has ever heard of the *Jerry Springer Show* – and without those willing to push the boundaries of that fringe, how can we move forward? If we don't move forward, we stagnate and wither – and yet we still end up with those who would attack us.

You see, by challenging these

notions of gender, difficult as this may be, we may well secure a world where one can choose their presentation – even if it is within a clearly defined gender. We all can win when the rules are relaxed.

Even if I am not the most gender fluid being on the planet, I can applaud those who are, who are willing to transcend those places they've been told to be. Moreover, those who are pushing through boundaries challenge me to do more, to explore deeper into myself and consider my own views of gender. That's a challenge I remain up for.

So to this fellow traveler I came across in transit, I salute you. It is you who keep us all moving forward. ▼

## 'Mayor of love'

◀ previous page

administration was also being scrutinized.

The Mission, which is in District 9, overwhelmingly supported Matt Gonzalez in his losing bid for mayor last year. And in November, there is an election for supervisor in the district, putting the mayor in a position to possibly endorse one of the candidates.

Current Supervisor Tom Ammiano, whom Newsom repeatedly praised in his answers to audience questions, faces several challengers in the upcoming election. One of them is Miguel Bustos, whose campaign was visibly active at the town hall meeting. Bustos declined to use the microphone to articulate his agenda, preferring "to let the community speak for itself," as he explained to the *Bay Area Reporter*. But Bustos did say that he was the best person for supervisor because he was the only candidate who was "born and

raised" in the Mission. Bustos also said that Ammiano has done great things for the city but, having lost the mayoral race, he should not win the supervisor's race as "a consolation prize," as he put it. Bustos said that as a gay Latino, he could most effectively represent the entire Mission on the Board of Supervisors.

Ammiano left the forum before he could respond to Bustos's comments. Likewise, none of the other candidates for the supervisor's race made their appearance visible at the meeting.

Newsom has not officially endorsed any candidate for the supervisor position, according to Francisco Castillo, his spokesman. Furthermore, Castillo said the mayor currently has no plans to make an endorsement in the District 9 supervisor's election, perhaps sending mixed signals regarding his praise for Ammiano. Ultimately, though, it will be the voters, and not the mayor, who will have the final say about whose voice speaks for the Mission. ▼

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## Dreier

◀ page 1

hypocrisy," an article by Doug Ireland, on its Web site and published it in its Friday edition. The article detailed how Mike Rogers has been gunning after Dreier on his Blogactive.com Web site. Rogers, a former development director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, on September 17 gave Dreier the "Roy Cohn Award" for his "24 years of working against gay and lesbian rights while living as a gay man."

Dreier drew attention from Rogers and Ireland in July after he voted for the Marriage Protection Act, a measure that would strip federal courts of jurisdiction over challenges to the Defense of Marriage Act, which bans the federal government from recognizing gay partnerships. While Dreier has come out against the Federal Marriage Amendment, which the House will vote on this week, he did vote for the original Defense of Marriage Act in 1996 and a measure that banned gays from adopting in Washington, D.C. He has a 92 percent favorability rating from the Christian Coalition, and was elected with Ronald Reagan in 1980.

Shortly after Rogers began outing Dreier, John Byrne, the gay editor of Raw Story, another online site, picked up on the story and interviewed Janice Nelson, Dreier's Democratic opponent in 1998 and 2000, who said she was aware during her 2000 campaign that Dreier was living with his chief of staff, Brad Smith.

"Brad was like an invisible presence," Nelson is quoted as saying. "They really have the routine down slick."

Nelson apparently came forward after learning about the *Hustler* expose "exploring the intersection of the congressman's sexuality and his positions on gay rights." Heading up the magazine's coverage is Mark Cromer, a former reporter for several newspapers in Dreier's San Gabriel Valley district that are owned by Dean Singleton, publisher of the *Oakland Tribune*. None of the newspapers have reported on the questions surrounding Dreier's sexuality.

In a statement to Raw Story, the magazine said it "knows that Rep. Dreier has enjoyed for many years the benefit of a 'don't ask, don't tell' policy" of the Republican-controlled newspapers in his home district, the very benefit that most Americans don't enjoy and thus suffer blatant discrimination as a result, including job termination."

In addition, *Hustler* said that it "believes that the best way to deal with what appears to be glaring examples of hypocrisy is to expose them and bring them into full relief in front of the public. Our team of journalists in New York City covering the GOP convention struck gold — the details of which are to be published in an upcoming issue this fall."

*Hustler* said it had sent Dreier a letter asking to interview him about the "intersection of human sexuality, national politics, and the conservative agenda" but has not received a response. Rogers said Dreier's office did not return calls he placed on the issue either. Calls to his office seeking comment from the *Bay Area Reporter* on Tuesday, September 28 also went unreturned.

*Hustler* said it hopes the congressman will come forward and address the issue. "This has nothing to do with what a public offi-

cial does in private," it said. "It has everything to do with the consistency of a political party's agenda and the honesty of its members."

## LGBTs react

Jeff Bissiri, chair of Log Cabin California, a statewide gay Republican group, said he had seen the stories but would have no comment on the outing campaign. Openly gay state Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) said he did not object to the outing of closeted politicians whose votes harm the LGBT community.

"I would say that anyone living a lie, living a public lie, in public office while simultaneously voting against the health and well-being of our community needs to deal with the truth. And if there are those in the community who wish to reveal the truth, I see nothing wrong with that," said Leno.

Since the mainstream media in Dreier's district are not picking up on the story, most political observers doubt it will have much impact on his re-election campaign.

"It would surprise me if any of this hurt him. Most Californians are going to vote for the person who they believe is the most qualified," said Geoff Kors, executive director of Equality California, a statewide LGBT lobbying group. "Sexual orientation is not going to be a factor on how most people vote."

In fact, Dreier's constituents appear more upset with the congressman's positions on illegal immigration, which have prompted one local radio station's hosts to launch a "Fire Dreier" protest.

But the issue may gain traction and media notice. If Dreier were indeed gay, it would mark the first time two gay candidates from the major political parties have squared off against each other for

a congressional seat. This past weekend, Raw Story published an interview with Dreier's current Democratic opponent, Cynthia Matthews, in which she revealed she is a lesbian with a partner of 11 years. She went on to raise questions about Dreier's integrity.

"If David Dreier is gay, it is absolutely shameful to me that he would amass a 24-year voting record against his own community," Matthews told the Web site. "I am saddened that David Dreier has voted against funding housing for people with AIDS and that he has denied AIDS medications to impoverished Americans — those who are most in need of these life-saving drugs."

Matthews also raised questions about Raw Story's reporting that Smith, Dreier's chief of staff, is the highest paid of any House committee chair staffer. Smith reportedly earns a \$156,600 salary, \$400 less than that of White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card and Bush political operative Karl Rove. In comparison, the House Judiciary Committee chair's chief of staff earns \$126,000 while the chief of staff to the House Ways and Means Committee chair makes \$100,986.

"I am especially concerned about the allegations regarding Congressman Dreier's decision to pay his chief of staff at a rate higher than those with similar positions and experience," she told the Web site. "By voting against equality for lesbian and gay people, David Dreier contributes to a culture that allows closeted gays and lesbians to pay those with whom they have personal relationships from the government payroll. An example of this was recently seen in New Jersey when it was uncovered that Governor James McGreevey had hired a man with

whom he had had a sexual relationship for a position that he was not qualified."

Matthews, in a telephone interview with the *B.A.R.*, said since the stories about Dreier have appeared, she has received calls from people in her district praising her for being open about her sexuality.

"Do they care who I am living with? No. Do they care about what I am going to do once elected? Yes," she said. "We have Republicans, conservatives, calling to say 'I like your honesty. I want to support you.' Gays and lesbians are coming out, people who don't live in the district but say they want to help."

Though she would not name them, Matthews said people from Congress have also called her to voice their support for her. While she said she has not been closeted in her race, her interview with Raw Story is the first time it has been disclosed she is a lesbian. On her campaign Web site Matthews, 41, makes no mention of the fact she has a female partner but does say she supports LGBT rights.

"This is a conservative district. I don't want to make my sexuality the brunt of the campaign," she said. "I don't want to be known as gay Cindy. I want to be known as U.S. Congresswoman Cynthia Matthews."

Since she won the Democratic primary this spring, Matthews said she has received calls from people asking her if she wanted to out Dreier. Except for a brief meeting with the congressman, who was accompanied by Smith, Matthews said she doesn't know for certain if Dreier is in fact a homosexual.

"I don't care who a person lives with, that is their business. But to go and actively vote against it, I see it as a detriment and it is pretty sad," she said. ▼

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## Assembly

◀ page 1

rights for same-sex couples. As Leno prepares to fly down to Palm Springs to help Democrat Mary Ann Andreas defeat the incumbent Bonnie Garcia (R-Cathedral City), Equality California announced it is withholding its endorsement in the race. A supporter of civil unions, Andreas told EQCA that as a practicing Catholic she does not support gay marriage.

"I understand Mark's support for Mary as he is supporting the Democratic candidate. While it is not where we would hope the Democratic nominee would be on LGBT issues, she remains head and shoulders above the incumbent Bonnie Garcia," said Geoff Kers, EQCA executive director.

Leno said despite Andreas's stance on marriage rights, she is a "very gay friendly" candidate unlike Garcia, who refused to vote for his resolution designating June as LGBT Pride month in the state.

"I recognize that Equality California has as its single mission the defense and promotion of LGBT issues and bills. I as a legislator need to support Democratic candidates who may be LGBT friend-



EQCA's Geoffrey Kers

ly though not necessarily passing muster with Equality California's standards," explained Leno. "My task is to assist her in winning her Assembly seat. By having her recognize that I, along with other members of the LGBT caucus were instrumental in her victory, then we can continue to educate her on the issue of marriage equality once she takes her seat in Sacramento."

Surprisingly, Andreas's campaign consultant is Eric Jaye, who helped Mayor Gavin Newsom in his election last year and supported Newsom's decision to marry gay and lesbian couples this past winter. Jaye said Andreas's views

on gay marriage are not different from the positions held by national Democrats.

"She has the same position as John Kerry and Barbara Boxer have. She supports civil unions and full and equal rights under the law for all Californians and all Americans," explained Jaye.

In another odd twist, Log Cabin California, the statewide gay Republican group, also is not endorsing in the race. State chair Jeff Bissiri said his group is instead deferring to its local chapter to determine if it wants to support Garcia. Garcia has refused to meet with any LGBT groups in her district before the election, though Bissiri said she has scheduled a meeting with the Log Cabins for mid-November.

"Bonnie is someone who is coming along with gay rights in her district but she hasn't come along far enough," said Bissiri, who added his group was "thrilled" that the assemblywoman had voted for SB1234, the Omnibus Hate Crimes Act, but disappointed that she "had not been there enough times."

But the way Leno sees it, "Bonnie Garcia never has and never will cast a supportive vote for us and that is among the reasons she needs to be defeated."

## Closer to home

In San Mateo County, Democrat Ira Ruskin, a City Council member in Redwood City who's running in Assembly District 21, has played up his support of gay marriage in his campaign commercial, showing footage of a lesbian couple in wedding gowns hugging outside San Francisco City Hall. Running against him in the Democratic leaning district, which covers Palo Alto, is millionaire businessman Steve Poizner, who is investing millions of his own money he made from his successful cellphone company into the race.

Poizner has been accused of running a stealth campaign. Though a Republican, his campaign is dubbed Reformers for Steve Poizner, and only recently did his television commercials say he is a Republican. While he supports civil unions, Poizner does not endorse gay marriage. In fact, according to his campaign spokeswoman, he believes the government should get out of the marriage business.

"He actually has a unique outlook on that. He thinks marriage is something religious institutions should preside over and government should get out of people's bedrooms," said campaign

spokeswoman Jennifer Kerns. "Anyone who wants one should have a civil union and all the benefits, but government shouldn't be in the business of issuing marriage licenses at all."

Leno, who will be hosting a fundraiser for Ruskin in October, said while Democrats are confident they can maintain the seat, currently held by Democrat Joseph Simatian, who is running for state Senate, Poizner is a formidable opponent.

"Poizner is running a very deceptive campaign in that he pretends he is not a Republican. He is putting potentially upward of \$8 million of his own money into the race and it is hard to compete," said Leno.

So far, Kers said his group is not concerned but is watching the race closely.

"The polling indicates his relentless commercials thus far have had no impact. It is one we are watching and if it looks like it has tightened up, we will put resources into it," he said.

Bissiri said Log Cabin has endorsed Poizner in the race and is not concerned about his ideas about how the state governs marriage. He likened Poizner's thoughts to a European model of marriage and suggested it could have some benefits for gay couples.

"It is a possible way to get out of this problem with people getting hung up on the M-word with gays and lesbians. It might be a way to work around the public's queasiness with using the term marriage with gays and lesbians," Bissiri said, though he acknowledged changing the legal system to accomplish that would be hard to do.

## San Diego races

Other races being watched closely are two in the San Diego area. Democratic Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe, an out lesbian, is giving up her District 76 seat to run for state Senate. Vying to replace her are Democrat Lori Saldana, a community activist, and Republican Trish Hunter, a former lobbyist for the scandal-plagued Houston energy firm Enron. Also in the San Diego area is Democrat Patty Davis, running in Assembly District 78 to unseat the Republican incumbent Shirley Horton.

Leno said he is feeling confident in both races due to improved Democratic voter registration in both districts. Kers said the San Diego race between Hunter and Saldana is an example of the kinds of races he would like to see throughout the state: both candidates are supportive of gay rights. However, Hunter's position on gay marriage is the same as Kerry's.

While none of the San Francisco state races are even remotely competitive — both Leno and Democrat Assemblyman Leland Yee are virtually assured re-election and out lesbian Carole Migden (D) should easily win a state Senate seat — Kers and Leno said it is important that local voters pay attention to other races.

"One, people in Bay Area should care in that yet whoever wins these close races will very well determine whether the marriage bill and gender equality bills pass the Legislature next year," said Kers. "Most of the close races are in Southern California and there is the need to support candidates who support us throughout the state. That is why EQCA is doing endorsements and raising money in order to support these candidates and make sure that the message is entirely loud and clear — our community can make the difference in these races." ▼

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# Science of sex & God – it's in the genes

by Bob Roebr

Dean Hamer seemed to pour gasoline on the nature versus nurture debate over sexual orientation when he discovered "the gay gene" back in 1993. But the latest work by the openly gay National Institutes of Health researcher might be even more incendiary. It's out in a new book called *The God Gene*.

His earlier work didn't identify a single gene responsible for making one queer but rather a region of many genes on the X chromosome that correlates with an increased likelihood that males will be gay. Soon, hip fags were sporting T-shirts that read "Thanks Mom for Xq28," the genetic region that he had identified.

Personality traits – from sexual orientation to smoking – are the result of a complex interplay of multiple genes and the environment, a back and forth that begins in the womb and continues throughout life, Hamer explained over coffee in his backyard one morning.

This time around, the "God gene" really is a single gene, VMAT2. It makes a protein that transports monoamines, a chemical in the brain. A single variation in the gene affects people's consciousness or the way they perceive the world and Hamer has linked that to spirituality.

"All of the spiritual people, all of the great spiritual experiences involved seeing reality in a fundamentally different way. For a lot of people that is tantamount to nuttiness, or schizophrenia, or something like that, but it's a very intimate part of spirituality," he said.

"With Paul [on the road to Tarsus], obviously that was a very dramatic instance of that. Or when Mohammed went flying around in his dreams. But I think that it plays a role in people's everyday life, too. Just sitting at the beach, looking at the waves, people can have spiritual experiences and it's because all of a sudden you just see the world in a little bit different light. I think that's pretty cool. Everything is not as it normally appears."

"Spirituality is measured by something called the self-transcendence aspect of personality," Hamer said, a category created by psychologists "that looks at things like, to what degree do people identify with the whole world around them, compared to just themselves. And to what degree do people feel that everything in the universe is connected by some sort of spiritual force." It is different from other personality traits.

When Hamer compared people's behavioral and personality surveys with their DNA, a variation of the VMAT2 gene popped out as having a strong correlation. He said, "It's interesting, not because it is the gene that makes people believers or not, but because just finding that one gene, we think, tells us something about the whole brain biochemistry of spirituality."

He said that VMAT2 is but one of what may well be hundreds of genes that play a role in spirituality.

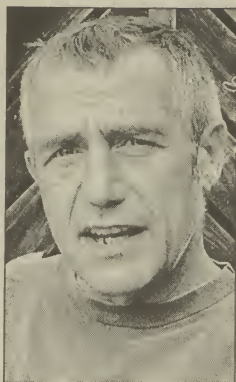
Hamer carefully distinguishes between religion and the biological aspect of spirituality. "Religion is a cultural phenomena where the rules are made up by man or come down from God, depending on your point of view, but they are things that you learn, things that can be changed culturally."

"The interesting thing about cultural stuff is that it is not necessarily stuff that is good for people; it's just good for the culture or the organization that creates it. Which gets into the people who profit from it, who are priests and bureaucrats."

"I've always been interested in applying a scientific analysis to things that are really fundamental about people, like whether they are gay or straight, or whether they are spiritual or not." But the government wasn't about to pay one of its scientists to study spirituality, a stance that Hamer readily supports.

His work on the God gene "is really a sort of leftover data or side effect" of a very broad scientific study of genetics and behavioral traits undertaken by a number of researchers working in collaboration. "It really is just reanalyzing data that we had already collected for other purposes," and was done on his own time away from the office. That's one reason why he hasn't published it as a scientific paper.

The field of behavioral genet-



Researcher Dean Hamer

ics is a controversial one and Hamer has not shied away from that controversy. He said his scientific colleagues have been leery of it. "They felt that way about sexual orientation and they feel 10 times stronger about this." One of his bosses even suggested that he

wait until after he retired to write about the God gene.

His work on the gay gene made him an anathema to the religious right. He doesn't think that the God gene will have the same effect.

"I don't see our findings as being anti-religious or pro-religious at all. If you believe in religion, then you will look at the research and say it establishes the truth that God gave us a specific mechanism for believing in religion; it's not just an afterthought, it's hard wired into our brains. But of course, if you are anti-religious you can look at it another way and say, well this proves that religion isn't really coming from above, it's coming from inside," he said.

Hamer says one practical application of this basic research may be to "support what people in AA [Alcoholics Anonymous] and other groups have been saying for some time. You can have a higher power without being religious. That whole so-called spiritual approach toward keeping sober and clean is incredibly practical."

"Maybe this is a way that scientists can justify using a spiritual program, because scientifically it looks like something that should work," he said with a laugh.

Hamer acknowledged his skeptical view of religion because of the "competition between science and organized religion. I think that is in part because religion continues to try and intrude into areas where it really has no business, like scientific explanations of the world, controlling people's social behavior, etc."

When he first began exploring the issue he thought, "Well, it's just some other personality trait, it's like people are neurotic, they are afraid of things and that's why they turn to religion, or some people are stupid and that's the only way they can explain the universe."

But the experience has changed, if not quite transformed him. "Writing this book really made me impressed with the power of spirituality and religion to an extent that I had not appreciated."

page 23 ►

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# Governor signs anti-discrimination bill

by Kevin Davis

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed two more bills into law within the last week, expanding LGBT non-discrimination language throughout state agencies, including the California National Guard, and reforming hate crime definitions.

Assembly Bill 2900, the Omnibus Labor and Employment Non-Discrimination Act, makes agency-governing codes consistent with the Fair Employment and Housing Act.

Senate Bill 1234, authored by state Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) and coauthored by Assemblywoman Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park), mandates police departments to pursue a formal hate-crime protocol, increases penalties for such crimes, and includes the expansion of police training on mental disabilities, cultural sensitivity, and racial profiling.

AB2900 authored by Assemblyman John Laird (D-Santa Cruz), and supported by the state labor federation and the NAACP, makes uniform nondiscrimination language in 30 branches of state government, using as a model, language found in the FEHA. It amends codes regarding labor, military, the Public Utilities Commission, unemployment, insurance, and welfare.

The law adds protection for members of the state National Guard on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The law does not apply to federal National Guard duty.

"The SLDN applauds the state

Legislature and Arnold Schwarzenegger for this bill's passage and for recognizing the contribution of lesbian gay and bisexual service members," said Steve Ralls, communications director for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. "However, it's very important to note that this legislation does not exempt them from 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'"

Laird's bill grants protection to California National Guard members by preserving the rights of military personnel not actively serving. The law incorporates terms of a recent court ruling, *Holmes v. California National Guard*, limiting the federal government's power over state rules regarding positions not requiring federal recognition.

A year ago a legal rights group informed Laird that protections in 150 state fairness codes varied widely, the majority not including bias based on sexual orientation and even fewer based on gender identity.

"It's important for the language to be explicit so it's crystal clear who is protected," Laird told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

No Republicans voted for the bill.

"No one in committee, no one in either house," said Laird. "Every single Democrat voted for it and every single Republican voted against it. I think that's the interesting twist to this, that in these modern times, fair employment couldn't get a single Republican vote to support the current standard."

According to SB1234, the definition of "hate crime" means a criminal act committed because

the victim exhibits one or more of real or perceived characteristics based on disability, gender, nationality, race, or sexual orientation.

SB1234 provides more protection for victims and witnesses of hate crimes, stiffer penalties for hate crime perpetrators refusing to obey restraining orders or damaging property, increases prison time for the crimes, prohibits police from reporting witnesses or victims to immigration authorities, protects the homeless, and bans police racial profiling.

Speech alone is insufficient to prosecute a person for a hate crime, but inflammatory speech that threatens violence is prohibited under the new law.

For anyone convicted of an offense, the court may require the defendant, as a condition of probation, to complete an ethnic sensitivity counseling program to reduce violent and antisocial behavior, pay a community-based program or hate violence service agency, and be required to pay for the victim's counseling expenses that result from the defendant's acts.

Because SB1234 changes the definition of existing crimes and expands their scope, it also requires the Police Standards and Training Commission to develop, by July 2005, a two-hour police telecourse on how to deal effectively and humanely with the homeless and other populations.

"We wanted to give protections to the most vulnerable, the homeless, people sleeping in doorways," said Kuehl.

The course covers the cause and nature of mental illnesses and developmental disabilities, how to

identify their indicators and conflict resolution, de-escalation techniques for potentially dangerous situations involving mentally disabled persons, and instruction on racial and cultural diversity in order to foster mutual respect and cooperation between police and members of all racial and cultural groups.

The curriculum will examine patterns, practices, and protocols

that make up racial profiling and ones that prevent such profiling.

The course will also instruct in identifying key perspectives of cultural differences among residents in a local community, the negative impact of prejudice and stereotyping on effective policing, examine how historical perceptions of discriminatory enforcement practices

page 23 ►

## John Martin Lambert

January 31, 1943 — July 16, 2004



John died peacefully at home in Corte Madera in the loving care of Hospice of Marin, Gentle Care, and his friends after a long chronic illness and a brief acute illness.

A native of Waretown, Massachusetts, John was a Bay Area resident for 30 years. He lived in Marin County for the last 20 years.

John's early employment with Advent and AdCom in Cambridge, Massachusetts, reflected his passion for high fidelity sound systems. Until his retirement in 1992, he was an employee of ClearCom Intercom Systems of San Francisco and Berkeley.

John (N6GSG, K1JCC) was a ham radio enthusiast since boyhood. He is survived by his loving mother Marion Lambert, sister Donna, and nieces Karen and Wendy, all of Massachusetts, and his beloved canine companion of nearly 15 years, Digger.

John's Bay Area friends gathered in Ross on August 16 to remember him with fine food and drink. Formal services were held Sunday, August 8, in Massachusetts. Donations in John's memory can be made to Hospice of Marin, 21 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera; (415) 927-5880.

## Daniel Joseph Michel



Daniel Joseph Michel, former resident of San Francisco, died October 16, 2003, as a result of an automobile accident near Las Cruces, New Mexico. He was born in Martins Ferry, Ohio.

He is remembered as a deeply spiritual man, who truly cherished nature and appreciated the good things in life. Dan was a proud veteran of the United

States Marine Corps, serving four tours in Vietnam.

In the spring of 1975, Dan arrived in San Francisco, attended his first Pride Celebration and was featured on the cover of the *Advocate*. He wholly embraced the lifestyle of the city and environs of the Bay Area.

Dan graduated from SF State University, University of Colorado and attended New Mexico State University as a Ph.D. candidate. He most recently taught High School studies for the Las Cruces, NM Pioneer Alternative Program. He was actively involved in physical fitness programs in his community, contributing much time and equipment.

Dan leaves behind many close friends and family, son and daughter, Daniel and Nancy; grandsons Daniel and David; brothers Joe and Charlie; sisters Sue and Carol; "Dog Kids" Butch, Willie, Ebbie, and Zeddy-May.

Dan will live on forever in each of us. A memorial celebration of Dan's life was held in Las Cruces, NM, October 24, 2003. Donations in Dan's name can be made to Safe Haven Animal Refuge, 144 Wyatt, Las Cruces, NM 88005.

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

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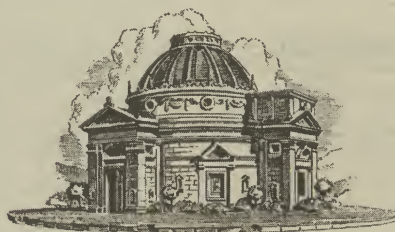


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# Healing moves

by Jim Provenzano

**W**hat if you set a goal to compete in a triathlon, only to be diagnosed with breast cancer?

For out lesbian Deborah Mosley, 36, it offered her a series of challenges that would daunt most people.

"I could not have known that the 'triathlon' I would ultimately endure that year would be a medical one," she said of her treatments, which included a bilateral mastectomy, eight chemotherapy infusions, and 27 radiation treatments.

Mosley is commemorating the one-year anniversary of her second diagnosis by competing in a

triathlon on October 9 in Napa. The event is part of her fundraising efforts on behalf of groups focusing on awareness for a disease that strikes a disproportionate number of women in the Bay Area.

Her fundraiser will benefit two Bay Area organizations: Breast Cancer Action and the Charlotte Maxwell Complementary Clinic.

BCA is a grassroots organization that seeks to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic. Among other things, BCA advocates for policy changes directed at achieving true prevention through understanding and eliminating the causes of the disease.

Part of the group's focus is the fact that younger women's breasts

are often dense, and X-rays cannot give a truly accurate picture of breast tissue. Often, tumors are not picked up by this technique, even when they are palpable and false negative readings are common.

CMCC provides alternative medicine treatments — including acupuncture and Chinese herbs — to poor and low-income women with cancer.

Currently on leave from her job as a financial services litigator with Morrison and Foerster, Mosley was born in Salem, Massachusetts, but grew up in Austin, Texas, where she began studying law. She also received a master's degree in literature at the University of Texas. Throughout these years, she was athletic, playing high school volleyball, basketball, track, and softball.

Mosley started triathlons at age 21, but got sidetracked by her career. "Practicing law is very time-consuming," Mosley said. "I wanted to reclaim that part of my life, so I made a commitment that I would compete."

But instead, in 2000, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. A bilateral mastectomy only weeks later, chemotherapy for the next month, and radiation treatments that weren't completed until later that year, left her exhausted. "I worked part-time and tried to get my life back together," she said.

But with a second diagnosis of breast cancer in October 2003, Mosley said, "I decided it was time for me to reclaim that promise I made for myself." She then set her goal on completing a triathlon.

More medical marathons ensued. Diagnosed via a bone scan, Mosley had to have a piece of her scapular bone removed to make a diagnosis. Then, she suffered severe abdominal pain as her liver metastasized. Her drug regimen changed from the hormone therapy treatments she had been on.

In December 2003, she had to have her ovaries removed. "My cancer is very estrogen-receptor positive," Mosley explained. "For cancers that feed off a woman's estrogen, the most effective treatment is to remove those organs that feed off it."

After these myriad treatments and operations, she said the cancer has been regressing. "I have fewer lesions in my liver, and they're smaller. My doctors are ecstatic. I'm very lucky. Life expectancy for someone with this liver condition is only a few years."

Mosley said that she feels healthier now than at the time of the diagnosis, and that finding a way to return to exercise helped.

"During earlier treatments, I had to take periods off where I would be too fatigued to do anything," she said. "But I tried to do something, because exercise is good for fighting cancer."

Her continued recovery led her to make a goal toward the See Jane Run triathlon event in Napa Valley. Part of her plan includes checking out the terrain this weekend, and riding the bike portion where she'll compete with over 300 women. She's also one of many lesbian athletes competing in such events throughout the Bay Area. This is one of several events observing October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month (see sidebar).

Mosley also runs a monthly support group, Bay Area Young Survivors. Co-founded with a friend who has breast cancer, the



Deborah Mosley, breast cancer survivor and triathlete

support and action group works with issues facing the largest killer of women between 25-54 years old.

"Breast cancer in young women is more aggressive," said Mosley. "We need to bring attention to the fact. Some doctors don't take cancer seriously, saying, 'You're too young to have cancer.' A wait-and-see approach can be deadly, and mammograms are often less effective."

A unique feature of BAYS is that it's oriented toward action as well as support and the sharing of resources. "Some of these prevailing beliefs, that are ultimately deadly for us, can be challenged and changed, and young women's concerns will be taken more seriously," said Mosley.

"We also share a concern about the role that the environment plays in the etiology of our disease, knowing that even when we take into account the known 'risk factors' for breast cancer, more than 50 percent of all cases cannot be explained by citing these factors."

That may offer some comfort to women in Marin County and San Francisco Hunter's Point, where environmental toxins have been associated with higher cancer rates.

When asked if some level of sexism played a part in such attitudes, Mosley agreed, saying that some breast cancer patients she knows felt their cancer wasn't

taken as seriously by male medical professionals. "But I was surrounded by a staff of female nurses and doctors," Mosley added. Even her surgeon and oncologist are women.

Until prevention measures work, events like the See Jane Run triathlon continue to raise funds. "Many women are training for the first time," said Mosley of the growing community, even among the rigorous triathlon. Stefanie Atkinson, a friend and photographer, has been documenting Mosley's experiences in both recovery and renewed athleticism.

"It's an individual sport," Mosley said. "But at the same time, I've had so much support, and people holding me up. I don't think this'll be the last triathlon that I do. I don't mean to sound naive. Next year, I may not be in a position to do this."

But Mosley said that working toward a goal in sports helps her "heal on a physiological level, but also a spiritual way, me telling myself and my body telling me, that I'm going to live."

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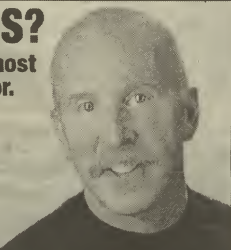
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P.O. Box 14472, San Francisco, CA, 94114-0472

## Breast cancer fundraising events

Like to swim? Join the Swim a Mile for Women with Cancer, October 2-3, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Trefethan Aquatic Center at Mills College in Oakland. This fun, non-competitive fundraising pledge event is for all ages and abilities, benefiting the Women's Cancer Resource Center. Info: (510) 601-4040, ext. 180 or visit [www.wccrc.org](http://www.wccrc.org).

Want to know more about preventing breast cancer? Join the Life Block Walk, sponsored by the Sisters Network, on Saturday, October 9, from 9 to 11 a.m., at Jones Methodist Church, 1975 Post Street, in San Francisco. Free breast cancer health fair, with screenings, exhibits, food, entertainment, and workshops. Info: (415) 310-3207 or visit [www.sistersnetworkinc.org](http://www.sistersnetworkinc.org).

Other Bay Area sports-related breast cancer events include Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, a five-mile, non-competitive walk through the fabulous Golden Gate Park. On Saturday, October 23, join hundreds of others for this invigorating and inspirational day. No pre-registration or minimum amount of money needed to raise is necessary. Call (877) 906-7222; e-mail: [StridesBayArea@cancer.org](mailto:StridesBayArea@cancer.org); or visit [www.cancer.org/strideonline](http://www.cancer.org/strideonline).

Like to bike? Join the Breast Cancer Fund's Bike Against the Odds, Sunday, October 24 at Lake Merritt in Oakland. Join over 500 cyclists of all skill levels in one of five routes through scenic areas of the East Bay. Visit [www.breastcancerfund.org](http://www.breastcancerfund.org) or call (415) 346-8223, ext. 15. E-mail [julie@breastcancerfund.org](mailto:julie@breastcancerfund.org). ▼



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Boycott

◀ page 3

ly. "I've gotten many letters from unemployed people supporting me."



Bank of America's Mark Rhoades

Mark Rhoades, a mortgage account executive at Bank of America, believes society in general puts too much stock in a community's economic clout.

"We always celebrate business and flexing our spending power," said Rhoades, whose business cards list LGBT organizations he supports. "I want to market my character, not that I'm the lead loan officer. It's unfortunate to think that's the only way to get power. Instead of respecting us for how we help humanity, how much time we spend giving in the community, it's admiration for being a single man making a quarter million dollars. If we fall into that, our self-esteem is based on numbers. I also help on the food line at St. Anthony's Dining Room. We have to go back to our foundations, how we support the community. It's not about financial clout."

## Genes

◀ page 19

ciated before. The more I studied it the more I realized, this is absolutely here, forever, and it will never go away."

"The argument between science and religion really is an argument between science and the cultural part of organized religion," Hamer said. "There is no conflict between science and spirituality."

## Governor

◀ page 20

have harmed police-community relations, and the history and the role of the civil rights movement and struggles and their impact on law enforcement.

"Organized grassroots support was the key in getting this bill through," said Kuehl. "This is part of the continuing effort to make the entire area of hate crime law easier and more accessible to the police who have to arrest and DAs who have to prosecute."

The bill also clarifies protecting

Though not officially endorsed by HRC, Duncan said, "I have gotten advice daily from people in the organization, not leaders. They're really reaching out."

Despite the criticism, one 30-year worker in mostly state-level civil rights trenches chooses to keep an open mind.

"Nothing that we want is going to happen all at once," said Boyce Hinman, chief lobbyist for the Lambda Letters Project, who began his civil rights career with the Society for Individual Rights in the 1970s. Hinman forwarded Duncan's e-mail to thousands of LGBT people.

"If we wait until we're absolutely certain it's clear that what we do will be an overpowering success, and everything will go absolutely perfectly and have a staggering effect on the economy, then we'll never accomplish anything, unless we take the initial steps. As a lobbyist, you're never guaranteed," Hinman added. "One of the lessons I've learned along the way is, try this, try that. Some fall totally flat, others have some impact, but if you try enough, you're ultimately victorious. It won't change the world tomorrow, but you do it in increments."

Hinman is not alone in his spirit of idealism, applied to local, relevant issues.

"These kinds of things should be done for really crucial issues like national health care, affordable housing – things that are monumental, which affect a broader base of people. It impacts all communities equally," said Avicoli Mecca of the boycott. "I don't feel the same kind of urgency [around the boycott]. If they want to get queer people together in unity with communities of color and far left communities, then let's lead a movement for national healthcare for everyone, people with AIDS, women with breast cancer, then I could get on board." ▼

Indeed, some of the greatest scientists, like Einstein, were intensely spiritual. I think that many scientists feel that way."

"I'm a strong believer in the power of spiritual belief. I've seen that work in my own life. I've always said, it doesn't really matter what you believe in, as long as you believe. If you believe, it's good for you. It's better than being a cynical old queen your entire life," Hamer said with a laugh, "or even part of your life." ▼

people associated with a minority group, for example, someone perceived as gay.

"Hate crimes covering association with a certain group of people was a gaping hole in the law," said Kuehl.

The authors of both bills had harsh words for state GOP Assembly and Senate members who voted against extending protections.

"They are on another planet," Laird said of state Republicans.

"Republicans do not vote for hate crime legislation, period," said Kuehl. "They don't want to recognize that this kind of discrimination and violence exists." ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER  
CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL NOTICES

## CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

## SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Free or low-cost health care, (800) 300-9950. If you or someone you know needs immunizations, check-ups, dental care, birth control, pregnancy testing, or prenatal care, call us. We are here to help women, teens, and children find free or low-cost health care. The San Francisco Department of Public Health provides referrals to clinics, doctors, and dentists in San Francisco. Our English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin speaking staff are here to take your call, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

## WIC Program

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Program provides nutrition education, food vouchers, and breastfeeding support for pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and children younger than five. Vouchers are picked up at a WIC site on a monthly/bi-monthly basis and may be exchanged for milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, juice, peanut butter/beans, and infant formulas in most grocery stores. All WIC services are free of charge. For more information, please call (415) 575-5788.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)

DPW invites you to join the Adopt-A-Street Program! Adopt-A-Street is a partnership between the City and its merchants and residents. The program is simple: groups or individuals agree to adopt a street or an area and take responsibility for keeping it clean.

When you sign up for the program, you will receive some supplies, such as a broom, trash bags, and gloves from the DPW to fulfill your obligation. Additionally, the Department can provide you with graffiti removal supplies and/or matching paint to remove the graffiti in your neighborhood.

The Adopt-A-Street Program creates a cleaner more pleasant environment for everyone who lives, works and shops in adopted areas. The program strengthens community ties as neighbors and merchants work together to keep San Francisco clean. For more information, please call us at (415) 98-ADOP or visit our Department of Public Works website at [sdpw.com](http://sdpw.com). Together we can improve the cleanliness and therefore quality of life in San Francisco!

## 24 Hour Program Playback on SFGTV

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View indexed video which can be accessed via SFGTV's Video on Demand service. In addition to the ability to view archived meetings of the Board of Supervisors, their Committees and other Commission meetings, the viewer will now have the capability to view any particular item immediately by clicking on the indexed agenda. You no longer have to view the complete archived meeting. You can go directly to the point of the meeting that you want to see at your convenience with the ease of one click. Access the information that you need faster than ever before at [www.sfgov.org/sfgtv](http://www.sfgov.org/sfgtv).

## STATEMENT FILE A-0278934-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Contract Interiors, 1755 Filbert St. #20 San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Patricia Ditzel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1-01-79. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-01-04.

SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30 OCT. 2004

## STATEMENT FILE A-0278933-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Landmark Construction & Development, Inc., 71 Britton St. San Francisco, Ca. 94134-2732. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed May M. Poon.

The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-01-04.

SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30 OCT. 2004

## STATEMENT FILE A-0278804-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Subway Sandwich, 30 Second St. San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Ruben Kazarian. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-01-04.

SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30 OCT. 2004

## STATEMENT FILE A-0278929-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ginger Barn, 584 Castro St. #884 San Francisco, Ca. 94114-2594. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Michael S. Davison. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-01-04.

SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30 OCT. 2004

## STATEMENT FILE A-0278832-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sea Bee Liquor 3000 Taraval St. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gina Ma. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8-27-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-01-04.

SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30 OCT. 2004

## STATEMENT FILE A-0279064-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Galatronic 38 Mason St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed Mike Majerus. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-07-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-07-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

## STATEMENT FILE A-0279073-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: CHL Hardwood Floor 70 Winding Way San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Lou Chi-Hang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-19-00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-08-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

## STATEMENT FILE A-0279077-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Angela's Cleaning Service 419 Holloway Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed William Cornejo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-08-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-08-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

## STATEMENT FILE A-0279065-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: NCT Food & Entertainment 208 Pennsylvania St. #106 San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Samaria A. Peralta. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-07-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-07-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541542

In the matter of the application of Catherine Emi Izuo for change of name. The application of Catherine Emi Izuo for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Catherine Emi Izuo has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jadenblue Lotos. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of November, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541535

In the matter of the application of Saul Juan Antonio Leyva for change of name. The application of Saul Juan Antonio Leyva for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Saul Juan Antonio Leyva has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Rafael Leyva-Lara. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of November, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

## STATEMENT FILE A-0278806-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Eye Carumba Optometry Four Embarcadero Center, Lobby Level San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Paul G. Irving. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8-19-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-26-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541516

In the matter of the application of Erin Nicole Cooper for change of name. The application of Erin Nicole Cooper for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Erin Nicole Cooper has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Erin Iris Nicole Fae. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of October, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

## STATEMENT FILE A-0279066-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Enhanced Sales Potential 4406 18th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John Musser. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-26-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-07-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Fronterra, LLC The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 965 Mission Street, STE 160, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. Type of License applied for:

42 - ON-SALE BEER & WINE- PUBLIC PREMISES

SEPT. 30 OCT. 7, 14, 2004

## Upcoming events

## Shockwaves beer benefit

Wanna meet some cute guys and down some suds? The SF Shockwaves flag football fundraiser Sunday, October 3 at the Pilsner Inn, 225 Church Street at Market, guarantees both. For \$8, from 3 to 7 p.m., you can enjoy your favorite beverage, and help our own gay-inclusive (and hunk-filled) flag football team trek to Atlanta for this year's flag football Super Bowl. They usually practice Saturdays at 11 a.m. in Dolores Park, so stop by there, too. Info: [www.sfshockwaves.com](http://www.sfshockwaves.com). ▼





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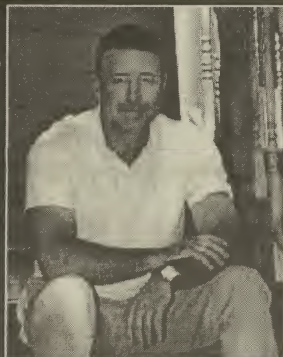
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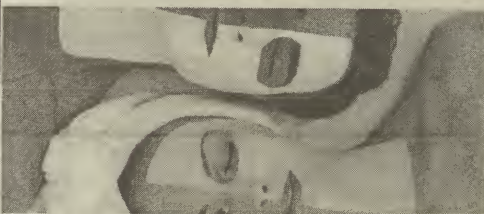


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## LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND  
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
FILE # CNC 04541536  
In the matter of the application of  
Elizabeth Jaleh Yaghoubi for change  
of name. The application of Elizabeth  
Jaleh Yaghoubi for change of name  
having been filed in Court, and it appearing  
from said application that  
Elizabeth Jaleh Yaghoubi has filed an  
application proposing that his/her  
name be changed to Elizabeth Anne  
Yaghoubi. Now therefore, it is hereby  
ordered, that all persons interested in  
said matter do appear before this  
Court in Department 218 on the 28th  
day of October, 2004 at 9:00 am of  
said day to show cause why the application  
for change of name should not be  
granted.  
SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND  
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
FILE # CNC 04541550  
In the matter of the application of  
Steve Susoeff for change of name.  
The application of Steve Susoeff for  
change of name having been filed in  
Court, and it appearing from said application  
that Steve Susoeff has filed an  
application proposing that his/her  
name be changed to Steve Susoyev.  
Now therefore, it is hereby ordered,  
that all persons interested in said  
matter do appear before this Court in  
Department 218 on the 16th day of  
November, 2004 at 9:00 am of said  
day to show cause why the application  
for change of name should not be  
granted.  
SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279243-00  
The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Excellent Automotive Service and Repair  
740 Valencia Street San Francisco,  
Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by  
an incorporation, signed Ronald J. Mallia.  
The registrant(s) commenced to transact  
business under the above listed fictitious  
business name or names on NA. The statement  
was filed with the City and County of  
San Francisco, Ca. on 9-14-04.  
SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279286-00  
The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Dynamic Innovations 35 Guttenberg St.  
San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is  
conducted by co-partners, signed Kellana  
Andaya. The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed  
fictitious business name or names on NA.  
The statement was filed with the City and  
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-15-04.  
SEPT. 23, 30 OCT. 7, 14 2004

## NOTICES

NOTICE: THE CAFÉ NIGHTCLUB  
NEIGHBOR'S MEETING

The Café will be hosting a meeting on October 14th at 2:00pm, at 2367 Market St., which is open to our immediate neighbors to discuss our intent to apply for an Extended Hours Permit with the City of San Francisco. We will be applying for an extended hours permit to remain open from 2am-5am, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Holidays.

The intent of this meeting is to give an opportunity to our neighbors to be involved in this process and voice any suggestions or concerns.

If you are not able to attend, you can fax or email your feedback Attention to Willie Adams (Director of Security/Risk Management) Fax (415) 288-4716 or email: wadams@prestigein.com.

Thank you, Café Management

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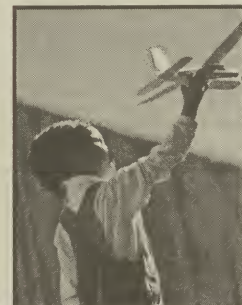
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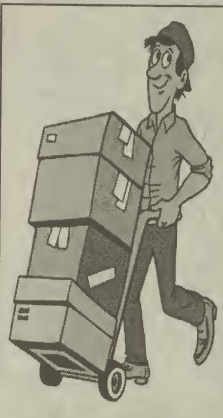
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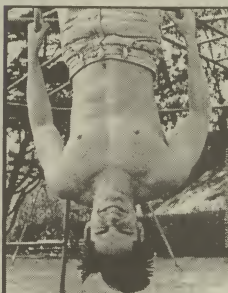
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## STATEMENT FILE A-0279380-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Four Wet Feet, For Wet Feet, 4 Wet  
Feet, 4247 21st St. San Francisco, Ca.  
94114. This business is conducted by an in-  
dividual, signed Robert S. Fullmer. The  
registrant(s) commenced to transact busi-  
ness under the above listed fictitious busi-  
ness name or names on NA. The statement  
was filed with the City and County of San  
Francisco, Ca. on 9-20-04.

SEPT. 23, 30 OCT. 7, 14 2004

## STATEMENT FILE A-0279406-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Capistrano Consulting, 23 Richland  
Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This busi-  
ness is conducted by a general partnership,  
signed Jennifer L. Bing. The registrant(s)  
commenced to transact business under the  
above listed fictitious business name or  
names on 9-15-04. The statement was filed  
with the City and County of San Francisco,  
Ca. on 9-21-04.

SEPT. 30 OCT. 7, 14, 21 2004

## STATEMENT FILE A-0279453-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: St. Francis Apartments, 1126 Bush St. San  
Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is con-  
ducted by a general partnership, signed  
Jimmy Chan. The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed fic-  
titious business name or names on 6-29-92.  
The statement was filed with the City and  
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-22-04.

SEPT. 30 OCT. 7, 14, 21 2004

## STATEMENT FILE A-0279441-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: One Good Deed, 1332 10th Ave. #304  
San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is  
conducted by an individual, signed Kathy  
Elliott. The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed fic-  
titious business name or names on 9-21-04.  
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SEPT. 30 OCT. 7, 14, 21 2004

## STATEMENT FILE A-0279433-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Cafe Mars/The Truckstop Cafe, 798  
Brannan St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103.  
This business is conducted by a limited lia-  
bility company, signed David Kiely. The  
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SEPT. 30 OCT. 7, 14, 21 2004

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Ginsberg, Burroughs, Kerouac & co.  
'Queer Beats: How the Beats Turned  
America On to Sex' returns to gay scribes.  
page 38

'Motorcycle' music  
Santaolalla scores 'The  
Motorcycle Diaries' film.  
page 37



'Butterfly' love  
'From Puccini to Miss  
Saigon' show at SFPALM.  
page 35



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 40 • 30 September 2004



A lesbian couple in Florida is among the same-sex couples whose stories are told in the new film *Tying the Knot*.

## History lessons from gay marriages

*Tying the Knot* explores the same-sex stakes

by David Lamble

**T**ying the Knot's director Jim de Seve is doing an imitation of the unseen villain of his movie, the honey-voiced Betty Lou, an Oklahoma ranchwoman who plays the role of land-snatcher. Explaining why he and Betty Lou never met on camera, de Seve throws his head back and drawls, "Well, I'd love to have you come over today" — she's talking like this Southern belle — "but I'm having some handicapped people come for lunch." Well, how about tomorrow? "Oh no, I simply can't tomorrow." She's really like this, it's insane. She's a piece of work, and it's greed!

In *Knot*, Betty Lou and a band of cousins snatch the small ranch property on which Sam and Earl have spent their rather married lives raising three sons and several herds of horses. Earl died in 2000, leaving, he thinks, everything to Sam. Earl's will was contested on a technicality (the lack of a third witnessing signature), which an Oklahoma judge used to award Betty Lou and the cousins everything that Sam and Earl had built together.

*Tying the Knot* is not your father's stodgy old documentary but a collection of hair-raising stories. They demonstrate that gay marriage is not a radical desecration of a venerable institution, it's a logical extension of the direction that institution has been heading for quite some time. It takes its two central stories — Sam and Earl, and the equally heart-tugging saga of a Tampa, Florida lesbian police officer's fight to receive the service pension of her officer partner killed in the line of duty — and provides a series of history lessons. In the course of a brisk 87 minutes, we will see a gay hippie, SF's "Red Queen" Arthur Evans, "liberate" the New York City marriage license bureau, and a gay conservative, British-born libertarian Catholic Andrew Sullivan, tearfully explain why he feels betrayed by George W. Bush.

### Personal angle

De Seve doesn't appear on camera, as he felt a Michael Moore-like showdown with Betty Lou would only damage Sam's fight. But he describes to me the personal hook that led him to make the film. Kian Tjong,

page 34 ►

## Gay life in the Arab world

Choice films from the 8th Annual Arab Film Festival

by David Lamble

**T**he 8th Annual Arab Film Festival (Oct. 2-24) starts its tour through four Bay Area cities with an outstanding gay feature at the Castro Theatre.

**The Road to Love** A young sociology student's decision to shoot a video project about gay life in the Arab world has a startling impact on his love life. As we meet Karim (Karim Tarek, whose sultry eyes say yes when his body clings to no), he's in what appears to be a committed relationship with a French-speaking young Arab woman. Sam (Siham Benamoune) jokes about how much a photographic pose of Karim resembles Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring." Little does she suspect that, as his camera rolls on a gaggle of skinny, gay-identified Arab boys, Karim has already started to channel his inner girl.

Director/writer Remi Lange (with co-writer Antoine Parlebas) cleverly employs the pseudo-documentary format to explore the burgeoning Arab gay political movement in the Parisian diaspora. As Karim learns about some esoteric bits of gay Arab history, like the 12th-century North African custom of "male marriage" and the stigma that attaches to the role of the passive partner, sparks start

page 39 ►



A scene from *The Road to Love*.

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



# Sex and the city's tabloids

Gays are everywhere (Ancient Egypt, the White House, HBO)

by Roberto Friedman

Our half-hearted gay congratulations to *Sex and the City's* Emmy-winning actress **Cynthia Nixon**, who more or less came out, for all practical purposes, as much as she could for Hollywood, in a possibly career-enhancing but community-spiritless way, all over last week's tabloid press.

Nixon said to the *Daily News*: "My private life is private. But at the same time, I have nothing to hide. So what I will say is that I am very happy." Happy like gay happy, or happy like well-fed?

Sources say she's split with **Danny Mozes**, the father of her two children, having commenced a hot lesbian romance last January. As Miranda in *Sex and the City*, she was pretty much straight, except in one episode, where her boss mistook her for a lesbian and set her up on a date with a dyke. Yeah sure, our boss is always doing this for us. In any case, one same-sex kiss was apparently enough for Miranda. But not for Cynthia!

Reportedly, her loved one is not in show biz, so we know she's not **Anne Heche**, so that's good. Late-breaking bulletin: Nixon's mystery girlfriend was identified at our prestime as education activist **Christine Marinoni**, NYC director of the Alliance for Quality Education. So they're doing it for the children.

Nixon has been able to keep the press at bay for so long by bringing her mother as her date to



The Nixon tapes: very happy.



Highsmith: Toy saleswoman/stalker



Gay Ancient Egyptian royalty smooch in tomb painting.

high-profile events like the Emmys, an old **Kevin Spacey** trick. Also, interestingly enough, she's just signed on to play classic first lady **Eleanor Roosevelt** in the upcoming HBO movie *Warm Springs*, with thespian **Kenneth Branagh** playing **FDR**. We see gay people in her future!

## Lady killer

Eleanor Roosevelt had an intimate lesbian relationship with reporter **Lorena Hickok**, pursued through the usual channels of correspondence and dalliance, but author **Patricia Highsmith** obsessed about and eventually stalked a woman who was her customer at the Toys

counter of Bloomingdale's! That's among the startling revelations in the handsome new Bloomsbury paperback edition of *Beautiful Shadow*, **Andrew Wilson's** indispensable Highsmith biography.

More revelations about the lesbian author of *The Talented Mr. Ripley*: "In November 1937, she went on a date with another girl in her year at **Julia Richman High School**, **Judy Tuvim**, the actress who would later take the name **Judy Holliday** and win an Oscar for the 1950 film *Born Yesterday*."

Highsmith carried on multiple relationships with members of both sexes. "One prospective lover wryly observed that Highsmith was rather like the Allied army in that she was 'too thinly deployed on too many fronts.' But Pat justified her promiscuity by telling herself that it was better to have sex than 'stagnating.'" And it makes for a much juicier biography.

## Looking glass

Here in our own private Romper Room, Out There has at our disposal a **Magic Mirror**, which once every episode we take

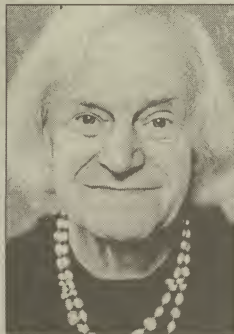
down from its hook on the wall. When we look into our Magic Mirror, who[m] do we see?

We see... the plumpy photo of porn pup **Jonathan West** (*Semper Bi*) in the current issue of gay website magazine *Cybersocket*.

Now we see... the familiar mug-shot of *Examiner* junior columnist **Christopher Caen**. OMG, are we seeing double? Gee whizzers, boys and girls, does this Chris maybe have a little something to tell us?

We see... two strapping hunks out hauling wood together in the glossy pages of the **L.L. Bean** Christmas 2004 catalog. Do you think they're carrying the Xmas tree home to their same-sex home and hearth? Nobody better tell no-neck fundamentalist preacher **Jimmy Swaggart**!

We see... actor **Macauley Culkin's** haunted mug-shot online at *The Smoking Gun*, taken during his drug arrest in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for possession of pot and pills. Culkin's pupils are big and shiny as dinner plates, but dammit, he still looks kinda cute. Darling Mac, what on earth were you thinking, endangering your life and career, going to Oklahoma City?



Charlotte von Mahlsdorf: survivor

## Sweet Charlotte

We see... triumphant transvestite **Charlotte von Mahlsdorf**, whose true-life story inspired playwright **Doug Wright's** Pulitzer Prize-winning play *I Am My Own Wife*. Now her story, originally published in German in '92, has been brought out in a Cleis Press paperback with the same name. She survived Nazis, communist East Germany, neo-Nazis, and all sorts of brutes and bigots, and lived to tell the tale.

Somewhat perversely, Out There most enjoyed reading the parts of her story when Charlotte was still known as **Lothar**. "As a child, sex was made to seem nasty — 'pfui,' forbidden. Once I had

forgotten to lock the door while masturbating in the bathroom. The servant girl burst in and indignantly asked, 'Lothar, just what are you doing?' Obviously, the question was unnecessary, since it was quite clear what I was doing."

Lothar's aunt also caught him in flagrante with the humpy stableboy. Now that's what we call memoir material.

## Fingers of fate

Thanks to the constant Out There reader who called our attention to the gay Ancient Egyptian royalty documented in tomb paintings. In the words of the *Egyptology* website:

"In 1964, in the ancient necropolis of Saqqara, Egyptian archaeologist **Ahmed Moussa** discovered a series of tombs with rock-cut passages in the escarpment facing the causeway that leads to the pyramid of **Unas**." The tombs' inscribed stonework shows "unique scenes of two men in intimate embrace, something Moussa had never seen before in all the Saqqara tombs."

"It was revealed that this unique tomb had been built for two men to cohabit, and that both shared identical titles in the palace of **King Niuserre** of the Fifth Dynasty: 'Overseer of the Manicurists in the Palace of the King.'" To tour the tomb of the ancient manicurists, go to [www.egyptology.com/niankhkhnum\\_khnumhotep/](http://www.egyptology.com/niankhkhnum_khnumhotep/).

## Mortal coil

Out There was saddened by the death notices last week for SF film publicist **Lesley Cootes**. We remember running into her in the lounge as we escaped from the closing movie for a local film fest, we'll pretend we forget which one. We said something candid about the film on offer.

Cootes said something equally candid, then, in that moment of considered reflection where most people just say, "But that's off the record," she added, "And if you print that, Roberto, I'll come after you, find you, and kill you." That's when we knew that we really liked her.

RIP, also, **Izora Rhodes Armstead**, one-half of the disco-pop duo the **Weather Girls**, who sang the enduring club hit "It's Raining Men." Armstead met fellow WG **Martha Wash** right here in SF, where they sang backup for cross-dressing disco diva **Sylvester**. IRA made us feel mighty real.

Producers **Marshall O Boy** and **Will Clark** announced the upcoming memorial event down south for porn star **Rick Van**, aka director and actor **Geoffrey**

next page ►

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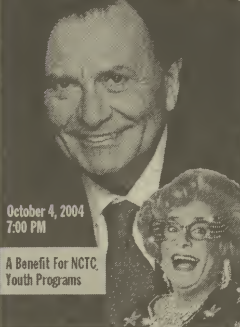
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## THEATRE

# Finding her inner teen

## Playing Dede in 'Opposite of Sex' at Magic

by Richard Dodds

There were any number of reasons why Kerry Butler didn't think she should play teen hellion Dede Truitt in the musical version of *The Opposite of Sex*.

For starters, Butler, well past her teen years, wasn't sure she wanted to play yet another teenager after creating the roles of Penny in *Hairspray* and Shelley in *Bat Boy - the Musical* before graduating to the grown-up role of Audrey in the recent revival of *Little Shop of Horrors*.

"But Dede is more mature than any character I've ever played," Butler said of the role created onscreen by Christina Ricci. "She's probably more mature than I am in some areas, because she had to grow up so quickly."

And then Butler says she had to let go of the instinct of wanting to be liked on stage, a characteristic that Dede makes it hard to embrace. "When we did a reading of the show early on, they were like, 'Kerry, I cannot believe you can do this,' because I really got into the character. I guess we all have that inside us, and we just don't want to let it out."

But a bigger stumbling block was Butler's fear that the musical, in a pre-Broadway tryout at the Magic Theatre, might be anti-Christian in much of its satire. "I said to our director, 'I have a lot of problems with Christians who are so right wing, so I don't want to put any more of that into the world. But if you're going to be bashing Christians, you may as well have a Christian in there who isn't the typical Christian.'"

Before meeting up with Butler in her dressing room at the Magic, there was a "gulp" moment when pre-interview research revealed that Butler leads prayer groups and Bible study with fellow performers. But, as she said, she isn't a "typical" Christian.

She's a vegetarian whose favorite movie is *Bowling for Columbine*. Global warming is a major concern for her, and she has sent money to the Kerry campaign. She believes watching Fox News has brainwashed her parents. And she's sad because President Bush's call for a Constitutional amendment banning gay marriage likely stems from the fact that he "must not know any gay people."

The considerable gay content of *The Opposite of Sex* gave her no pause at all. In the story, adapted from writer-director Don Roos' 1998 film, the sharp-tongued Dede seeks refuge from an abusive homelife with her gay half-brother. She promptly sets out to seduce his hunky lover, and when they run off together, a kind of posse of the jilted sets out on their trail.



Dede (Kerry Butler) seduces her brother's boyfriend Matt (David Burtka).

"Dede is definitely anti-gay in the beginning, but she opens up," said Butler. "Although she'll never admit she's changed."

The propelling force in creating a stage musical from *The Opposite of Sex* is director Robert Jess Roth, who directed Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* on Broadway, and who is gay himself. Roth has co-written the libretto with songwriter Douglas J. Cohen.

Butler only recently first watched the movie. "I was amazed," she said, "because they've gotten so much of the movie onto the stage." She likened the scale of the show to *Falsettoland*, and described the score as "very quirky." Because she's still playing teen roles, Butler doesn't like to give her age. But she's been married for five years to Joey Mazzarino, who works for *Sesame Street*, both as a Muppet character and a writer.

Butler and Mazzarino were childhood friends living in the same Brooklyn neighborhood. Starting at age 3, Butler was appearing in commercials, but after two years her mother decided that was enough. "I really liked doing it, and I begged my mother," Butler said. "She finally let me audition for *Annie* when I was 9. I have a tape of myself in it with the strongest Brooklyn accent."

In the following years, Butler had no trouble landing work in commercials, but stage and screen roles proved elusive. "I had tons of people tell me I would never make it, and that really fueled me to prove them wrong," she said. "I could always sing, but I think I needed to work on my acting, and I did."

Lingering insecurities led her to read the Broadway chatboards

while she was co-starring in *Little Shop of Horrors*. "People were saying mean things about me on them. You know you shouldn't be looking at them. I don't go on them anymore, but for a while it was really hard."

"That's why it's so awesome that I'm doing this show because it's like, FU, I don't care what you say. Dede is so freeing, and I should stand on stage each day before the show starts and stick out my middle finger."

She's not your typical Christian.

### Short scenes

• Brava is one of the participating theaters across the country simultaneously producing the premiere of *Laura's Bush*. Written by Jane Martin, the pseudonymous author of *Talking With and Keely and Du*, the new play takes satirical aim at the current occupants of the White House. Dan Chumley is directing the SF company, running Oct. 6-31. Call 647-2822 or go to brava.org.

• Theatre Q's production of *Snakebit* moves to the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek on Oct. 1, following a run in Mountain View. David Marshall Grant's play looks at how the fear of AIDS tears up a gay-straight friendship. Call (925) 943-7469.

• In *69Stories: One Pervert's Tale*, solo performer Mollena Williams takes audiences on a journey into San Francisco's S/M community. First seen in 2001, *69Stories* is being revived together with the premiere of its prequel, *No Good Deed*, also by Williams. Crowded Fire is presenting the show at the Exit Theatre, where it runs Oct. 8-Nov. 13. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at [BARstage@aol.com](mailto:BARstage@aol.com).

## Out There

◀ previous page

Karen Dior, which alerted us to a confirmed Pussy Sighting. Perhaps you've also been wondering whatever became of sultry-voiced *Pussy Tourette*. Well, now you know she's been seen down in the bowels of LA, and she's going to

perform at the Dior memorial/benefit for LA Shanti ([lashanti.org](http://lashanti.org)). Nice to know Pussy's still peddling her wares.

Heaven knows OT has blabbed on *ad nauseam* re our Baltimore boyhood, rubbing shoulders with John Waters & entourage in E. Balto. dives, etc., but alive-and-kicking film publicist Bill McLeod tells us he was once seat-

ed right next to Waters star *Diane* in the audience, and her presence in the audience was by far the bigger show.

Well, that's how we feel re many of the larger-than-life characters we run into during the normal run of events in our little cowntown. They are the show. We'll stop before we get sentimental — oops, too late. ▼

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# Espionage ring

## 'Single Spies' at Rhino

by Richard Dodds

It's not hard to understand why homosexuals once were prime recruits in the world of espionage. Even as insiders to their country's secrets, they were always outsiders in its social systems. And, of course, they already knew what it meant to live a clandestine life.

British playwright Alan Bennett used two of the most notorious members of the "Cambridge Spy Ring" for *Single Spies*, a pair of one-act plays first produced in the 1980s that is only now having its American premiere at Theatre Rhino. Half of the evening has been worth the wait.

That half comes first. *An Englishman Abroad* recreates an actual encounter in Moscow between a visiting stage actress and exiled spy Guy Burgess. Lonely, depressed, and slightly daft, Burgess invites Coral Browne to his seedy apartment for the ostensible rea-

son of asking her to order a new suit from his London tailors. But what he really seeks is an infusion of England into his weary body.

Jeffrey Hartgraves wonderfully creates a Burgess who is both funny and sad, flouncing about his apartment in a semi-stupor while his guest tries to make some sense of the situation. Libby O'Connell is spot-on as Coral Browne, a respected actress of some hauteur but also a woman intrigued by the human dimensions of Burgess' crime and the self-inflicted punishment of his exile. John Fisher has directed the one-act play with smartly tuned attention to its interwoven elements of comedy and tragedy.

Situations are reversed in *A Question of Attribution*, with Fisher in the lead role and Hartgraves as director. It's not as winning a combination, with the results that the more subtle of the two plays doesn't quite gel.

Fisher plays Sir Anthony Blunt,

Libby O'Connell and John Fisher play roles in *A Question of Attribution*.

an art history professor and curator of the Queen's art collection. Identified as a spy and given immunity, with his crime kept secret so as not to embarrass the government, we variously see Blunt being regularly pressed for information, lecturing on art history, and studying the art collection at Buckingham Palace.

Fisher gives Blunt an unconvincing and unnecessary swishiness, but he does find a more con-

vincing tone for his unexpected and wryly humorous encounter with Queen Elizabeth II (O'Connell) in a palace hallway. Matt Weimar, as Blunt's blue-collar interrogator, is aiming in the right direction if not exactly scoring a direct hit.

The play itself seems to be a draggy affair, with confusing scenes that Hartgraves' unevenly paced direction doesn't help clarify. In terms of spy vs. spy, at least

in theatrical terms, Burgess trumps Blunt. ▼

*Single Spies* will run at Theatre Rhino through Oct. 17. Tickets are \$15-\$28. Call 861-5079 or go to [therhino.org](http://therhino.org).



Donald Currie, master storyteller

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## Gay lifer

### Currie's 'Sex & Mayhem'

by Richard Dodds

People who didn't come of age in the '60s are probably pretty tired of hearing from people who do talk about coming of age in the '60s. But Donald Currie may have a cure with *Sex & Mayhem*, a one-man show so vivid that it may cause acid flashbacks even for those who think Maalox for these moments.

The San Francisco native first chronicled his gay adventures in a spoken-word CD, and those words have now been adapted into a funny-sad stage piece that Currie performs with a bitter-sweet gusto. The show takes us from the '50s, when little Donnie puts on drag performances for his appreciative, senile grandmother, through the '60s, when romance, liberation, and drugs turned SF into a tie-dyed wonderland, and to the present, with his current take on those experiences.

*Sex & Mayhem*, now at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, marks Currie's first stagework in more than 20 years. He has some of the clown essence of a performer like Wallace Shawn, and the lack of slickness enhances his rapport with the audience. Currie is actually a masterful storyteller in his words and in the passion with which they are spoken.

Director John Dixon has found a strong stagelife for Currie's words, using just a few chairs and a platform to create a different world. Onstage at a keyboard, Don Seaver provides his atmos-

page 35 ►



## MUSIC

# Emotive power at the symphony

by Philip Campbell

After a lackluster opening night, the San Francisco Symphony has powered through the first two weeks of the new season with energy to spare. The thrilling debut of an important vocal artist and a program filmed for television made for an impressive fortnight of concerts.

German baritone Thomas Quasthoff's triumphant first appearance with the orchestra will resonate in memory for months to come. Fortunate attendees leapt to their feet in the first standing ovation of the season, a tribute that actually meant something for a change.

As the unfortunate victim of thalidomide-related birth defects, Quasthoff has managed to overcome the ignorance of early teachers. With the encouragement of an intelligent and supportive family, he finally supplanted years of indifferent education with proper voice lessons, and is now achieving a brilliant career.

Perhaps that explains why so few journalists ever mention his physical abnormalities. Like FDR's wheelchair, they have little bearing on his outstanding talent. When he positions himself center stage and lets forth with a stream of gorgeous sound, it is only the music that matters.

His diction and emotive capabilities recall the young Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, and probably are helped by his background as a former radio announcer. He also



Baritone Thomas Quasthoff

possesses something of Thomas Hampson's trademark silvery tone, but Quasthoff has more power and richness. One longs to hear him perform extended operatic arias.

For his Symphony debut, he chose five songs by Schubert, orchestrated by Webern, Reger and Offenbach. They evolved into a dramatic song cycle, artfully crafted and seamlessly beautiful.

Michael Tilson Thomas is known to be a sympathetic orchestral accompanist (and incidentally a good pianist, too). With his vocalist he forged a sensitive partnership, conducting songs originally written for voice and piano with exquisite understand-

ing. When Quasthoff returned for an encore, MTT was clearly pleased for him. The delighted audience was pleased for both of them.

The rest of the concert paled by comparison. An SFS-commissioned piece by Steve Reich, "For Strings, with winds and brass" is really just a reworking of a movement from the longer *The Four Seasons* originally written for the orchestra's 75th anniversary. It started the evening unobtrusively, but seemed curiously out of place. The full-length score is far more interesting.

MTT devoted the second half of the bill to the wonderfully tuneful Symphony No. 2 by Sibelius. With its echoes of Tchaikovsky and obvious influence on future works by Rachmaninoff, it, too, seemed a strange choice. The maestro proved a fairly convincing advocate, though he is better challenged by the thornier and more succinct later symphonies.

## Candid cameras

Last week, the cameras were back in Davies Hall for the latest installment of the Symphony's entertaining educational series, *Keeping Score: MTT on Music*. The pairing of Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky should provide an intriguing segment, but it was not completely satisfying as a pure concert event.

Three excerpts from Stravinsky's *The Firebird* came off with an exciting impact and had moments of sensuous delicacy, but

were too brief a teaser. The following Symphony No. 2, *Little Russian* by Tchaikovsky, was performed in its entirety.

The charming work is filled with references to Russian folk music. While it is not top-drawer Tchaikovsky, presumably commentary will be added for TV, and the connection can be made more obvious.

Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* has been performed by MTT many times with great success, and the seminal work remains powerfully shocking. What *Hair* did to the Broadway musical, *Le Sacre* did to the ballet much earlier. It irrevocably altered the course of modern music.

It also stands as a concert work of undeniable force. Too bad the

cameras seemed to get in the way this time around. Ensemble playing was less than perfect, but several soloists made terrific contributions. Oboist William Bennett deserves an Emmy nomination for best supporting player.

The audience was enthralled, especially some enthusiastic youngsters hamming it up in the terrace section. When Tilson Thomas conducts, the experience is always stimulating. Add some television lighting, and the results can get intense. ▼

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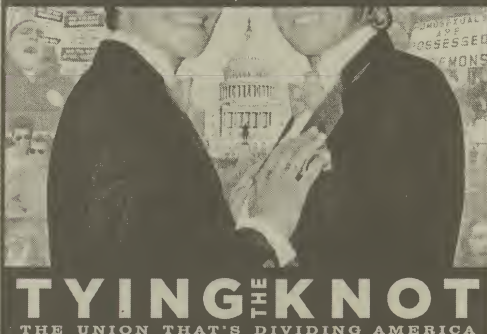
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# A river runs through it

## The life of John Kerry 'Going Upriver'

by David Lamble

This is a story about a hero. Most of us are taught to admire heroes, people who pull other people out of burning buildings, who back up their buddies in a war zone when lives are on the line. John F. Kennedy won a few elections on a war hero's résumé. If John F. Kerry were merely this kind of hero, his old friend George Butler would not have made the movie he's made, one that implicitly makes some fine distinctions about the nature of

heroes and heroism.

Beginning like a conventional campaign biography with beautiful black-and-white still photos of Kerry playing sports and attending the best schools, *Going Upriver: The Long War of John Kerry* abruptly shifts gears when Kerry and many of his classmates decide to serve in Nam. Having this particular war on your résumé soon turned out to be a questionable career move.

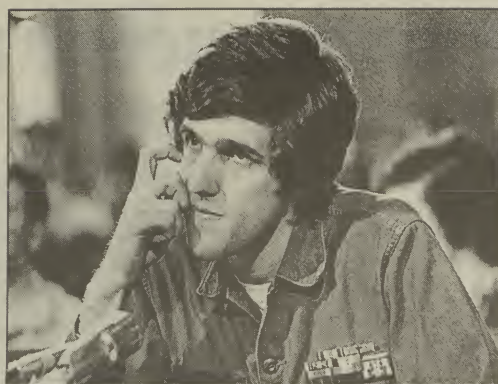
Butler demonstrates how Kerry's desire to command one of the Navy's swift boats would place him in the cross-hairs of Viet-

Cong artillery. Swift boats were noisy, and the enemy could hear them coming. They also became instruments of one of General William Westmoreland's most controversial policies for fighting the war: as one vet puts it, the creation of "free-fire zones where, if we saw a person, we could kill them."

Butler crafts a seamless transition between anti-war vets testifying to war atrocities that they had either committed or witnessed at the Winter Soldiers Hearings in Detroit (January 31-February 2, 1971) and the Dewey Canyon demonstrations in Washington, DC (April 19-23, '71). A vet describes a disturbing battle souvenir, a photo showing him cradling the body of a dead enemy soldier. "It's me holding a dead body and smiling."

Tom Oliphant of *The Boston Globe*, who was Kerry's journalist-shadow during this period, explains that Kerry "didn't want [the protest] to be a movement of men telling horror stories." The horror stories, and just how they reflected on the reputations and patriotism of the men who told them and the vets who denied or repudiated them, became the crux of the moral dilemma that divides Vietnam war veterans to this very day.

In an excerpt from ABC's *Dick Cavett Show*, Kerry is shown debating John O'Neil, a Vietnam vet from Texas who had been dispatched by Nixon aide Charles Colson to discredit Kerry and the anti-war vets. Kerry is seen expressing some discomfort at supporting accounts of deeds he himself had not witnessed, but felt were part of the moral argument against the war. In effect, the anti-war vets had to own the worst of the war to claim politically that it was Nixon's war and should end.



Kerry: 'How do you ask a guy to be the last guy to die in Vietnam?'

Towards the end of the film, we learn about the then-27-year-old Kerry's state of mind as he approached perhaps the bravest act of his nascent political career. Kerry, blessed or cursed with a patrician manner, had been picked out of a crowd of scruffy anti-Vietnam war veterans by the dean of the Senate's war critics, Sen. William J. Fulbright. Journalist Oliphant walked with Kerry through the corridors of the Capitol. "As he approached the door of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee door, he pulled back and said, 'Oh, shit!'"

Later, Kerry's harshest critic would give him high marks for his testimony that day. Talking in the Oval Office to White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman, Richard M. Nixon was positively ecstatic about Kerry. "He looks like a Kennedy and talks like a Kennedy."

Earlier that day, Kerry had put the moral question facing the country about the Vietnam War

so perfectly, his words could have been chiseled onto the Lincoln Memorial. "Somebody has to die so Nixon won't be the first President to lose a war. ... How do you ask a guy to be the last guy to die in Vietnam?"

George W. Bush's activities during this period could be represented by one of the characters from *National Lampoon's Animal House*. Bush's view of the war was one thing when it might involve him, and quite another when it came to opinions he vouched to classmates at the time, and repeats today. Bush may be a hypocrite, not such a good thing, but truth be told, he's not unrepresentative of the people he's leading.

As George Butler's film so eloquently testifies, John Kerry may be several notches above most of us on the moral scale. Looking up to a potential leader is not something Americans have had much practice at lately, and it may be a stretch for a majority to pull off. *Opens Friday.* ▼



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Director Jim de Seve's film has a personal story and motivation behind it.

## Tying the Knot

◀ Arts cover

a native of Indonesia, had come to New York and needed a place to live. "We had the three-hour roommate interview, and he moved in. I thought, 'My god, what have I done!' But there was just some kind of little spark behind us that was pretty instantaneous. Now, five-and-a-half years later, we've moved pretty far along in the relationship."

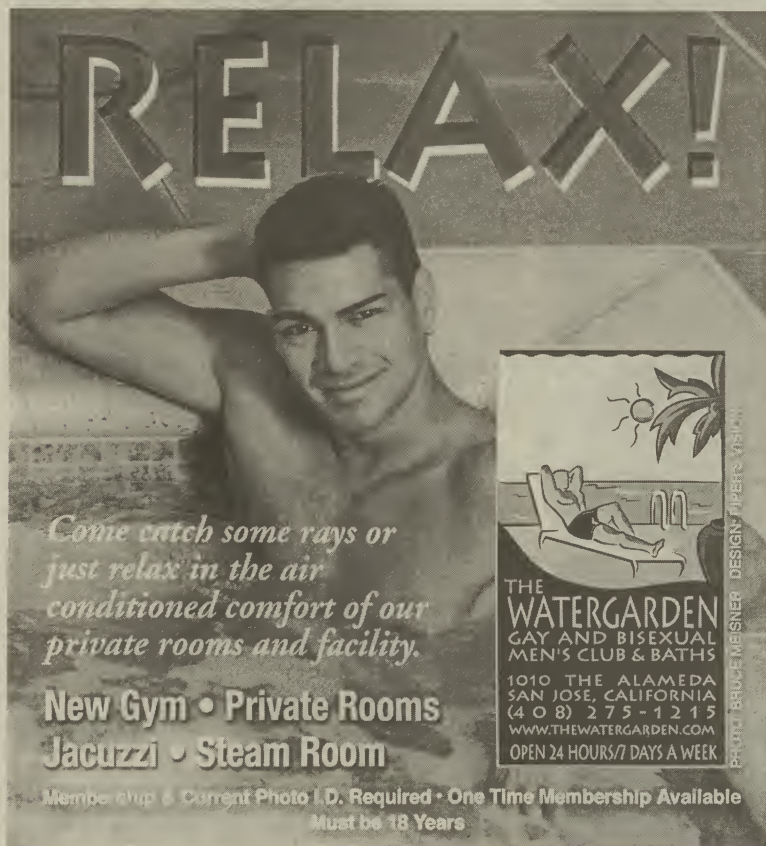
De Seve admits that he and Kian "became married to this film. We've talked about where should we get married." He offers a succinct analysis of what's at stake for longterm couples. "I think we really are married, if marriage is based in love and commitment. A lot of people say, 'Well, it's just a piece of paper.' Yes, but what comes with that piece of paper is incredibly powerful from a legal standpoint. On the federal level right now, the tabulation is 1,138 federal rights. Gay and lesbian couples get zero — social se-

curity and veterans benefits, inheritance tax, confidentiality protections for married couples in testifying against each other — all sorts of legal protections that gay and lesbian couples just do not have."

This point is driven home with special poignancy in the story of Mickie Mashburn and Lois Marro. The women met as Tampa police officers, had a commitment ceremony in 1991, and felt set for life. When Lois was killed in 2001 responding to an armed robbery, at first Mickie was treated like her widow by friends, family and the Tampa Police Dept., even receiving the American flag from her lover's coffin. But as soon as she applied for Lois' private police pension, the feudal definition of marriage snapped back like the jaws of a Florida gator.

Twice, Mickie relived her lover's death in hearings before the police pension board. Both times, the board ruled in favor of Lois' sister, the very sister who handed them their rings. *Opens Friday.* ▼

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## ARTS

# Geisha with a history

'Madame Butterfly' exhibit soars at SFPALM

by Stephanie von Buchau

As an almost mystical lover of music, I tend to shy away from visual exhibits about musical subjects. Music is a direct assault on the heart. Exhibits, even with the best visuals, have to enter the brain first, and I usually can't brook the contradiction.

But in the case of *Madame Butterfly: From Puccini to Miss Saigon*, which opened this weekend at the San Francisco Performing Arts Library and Museum in the War Memorial Veteran's Building, I got such a terrific rush of feelings and excitement from viewing the two galleries of photos, paintings, posters, costumes and memorabilia, from pre-Puccini to post-Miss Saigon, that I forgive PALM for spelling Puccini's opera in English.

I can't guarantee everyone will be as thrilled as I was with this centenary exhibit of Puccini's opera, premiered at Milano's La Scala in 1904, because not everybody has my strange and wonderful history with *Butterfly*. On October 15, 1946, I heard the first US performance of the work since the end of WWII, when it had been unofficially banned as "too sympathetic to the Japanese."

In those days, all we cared about — my opera-singing grandmother, my blues-singing Mom and the little towhead who was already operationally hip — was that the diva of the evening was the famous Italian Cio-Cio-San, Licia Albanese. We thought she was sensational and, after the opera, went backstage to witness a radio interview (my Dad was an announcer), in the course of which I ended up on the diva's lap.

Fast-forward 20-odd years to the Circle Star Theatre, where *La Boheme*, starring Albanese as Mimi, was presented in the round. We rushed backstage to get autographs, and I had the brainless idea to remind her about my first-ever opera. When I got to the part about sitting in her lap, the

diminutive diva looked at this strapping girl towering over her and hissed, "And I sing just as good now as I did then!" She did, too, and now at age 90, Albanese is the poster girl for the PALM exhibit, showing up at the press preview in a glamorous turquoise brocade suit and, quite frankly, walking better than I do.

The idea for the exhibit came to curator Brad Rosenstein after he assisted Emily Sano, director of the Asian Art Museum, with research on the theatrical aspects of her *Geisha* show. "It was only a tiny part of her exhibit," he says, "but we had a show drop out, and I had so much *Butterfly* material I thought, why not?" He pulled the exhibit together in five months, which explains why the catalog and some captions were not ready when I was there before the official opening.

## Gem setting

Rosenstein starts with a brief survey of *Japonisme*, that homage

to *ukiyo-e* (color print) artists such as Hiroshige and Hokusai that swept through France in the last half of the 19th century. The gem from this thread is a fabulous portrait, "La Princesse du Pays de la Porcelaine," by James McNeill Whistler, whose "Peacock Room" is also shown in reproduction. There are manuscript pages and facsimiles of work by the original *Butterfly* creators, Pierre Loti (*Madame Chrysanthème*), John Luther Long and David Belasco (who wrote the play that Puccini's librettists adapted). There is a section on turn-of-the-century geisha-turned-dancer Mme. Sadayakko, whom Puccini actually followed around on a European tour, borrowing one of her melodies for his opera. There are photos of famous Cio-Cio-Sans, and an audio stand where you can hear them sing.

Something of a musical snob, I was dreading the next gallery, which continues the *Butterfly* saga to the present time. Was I ever

wrong on that one. In fact, even if you are not much of an opera buff, the second gallery will surely float your boat. Using posters, Rosenstein swiftly outlines the history of *Butterfly* in film, from a Mary Pickford silent and Jerry Lewis' goofy *Geisha Boy* to sexy contemporary takes on East-West romance *The Pillow Book* and *The Chinese Box*. There are brief images of *Butterfly* in dance and references to David Henry Hwang's play *M. Butterfly*.

All the while I could hear Lea Salonga singing from *Miss Saigon*. The audio station here is also set up for video. Memorabilia, autographs, photos from the Boublil-Schonberg musical lead to a section labeled "and beyond," where Rosenstein's exhibit scores a major coup. The latest opera on the subject, *Jr. Butterfly*, finds a Japanese-American spy falling in love with a Japanese woman during the Pacific War and its atomic aftermath. Debuting in Tokyo in April, to sensational reviews, it was



Diminutive diva Licia Albanese

composed by Shigeaki Saegusa, who also wrote *Chushingura* (1997), a passionate, melodic period piece that was briefly available here on Sony CD.

During the exhibit, which runs through January 22, there will be a series of screenings and conversations with Hwang and Salonga. Call 255-4800 or log onto [www.sfpalm.org](http://www.sfpalm.org) for information. Admission is free. ▼

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## Sex & Mayhem

◀ page 32

pheric score and occasional musical punctuation. The text itself is woven from beat poetry, silly poetry, a whrrr of onomatopoeia, and a hyperdescriptiveness that acknowledges its own excesses.

The author can be hard on himself, especially when describing the cold way he treated his parents after he came out, and later how he helped push his first lover over a psychological edge. But even the most regretful moments have humorous ingredients, including a key story of that first lover, who was the drama teacher that student Currie had set out to seduce.

At the top of *Sex & Mayhem*, Currie recalls the words of a late friend who said, "Girlfriend, think of all the millions of people who have lived and died without a trace."

"So here's my trace," he tells us, and by sharing it with him, we become part of that trace, too. ▼

*Sex & Mayhem* runs through Oct. 10 at NCTC. Tickets (\$20-\$25): 861-8972 or [nctcstf.org](http://nctcstf.org).

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# Black and blue

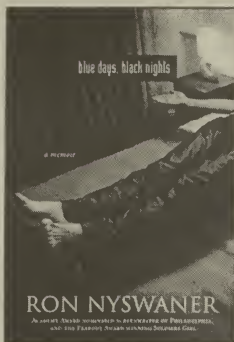
Screenwriter Ron Nyswaner offers memoir

by Gregg Shapiro

Acclaimed screenwriter Ron Nyswaner, the man who wrote the screenplays to the movies *Philadelphia*, *Swing Shift* and *Mrs. Soffel*, as well as the award-winning Showtime production *Soldier's Girl*, has just published his revealing memoir *Blue Days, Black Nights* (Advocate Books). In it, Nyswaner details his spiraling drug and alcohol abuse and subsequent relationship with a European male prostitute he meets in a bar in Los Angeles. At turns funny and tragic, Nyswaner's story is the kind of book that you simply can't put down, made even more so because it is true. Nyswaner will be in San Francisco at the Herbst Theater, on October 5, as part of the *Close-Up: Visionaries of Modern Cinema* series.

Gregg Shapiro: You've written scripts based on fact, and scripts that were fiction. When it came to writing *Blue Days, Black Nights*, was there ever any question as to whether you were going to tell your story in memoir form versus fictionalizing it?

Ron Nyswaner: No, I never really wrestled with that. I think I really wanted to enjoy exploring truth that wasn't disguised. Anything fictional has a lot of truth in it as well, but it's always sort of hidden beneath imagined characters and situations. I just wanted



the pleasure of being a journalist about my own life.

I got the sense that when you were writing about your family, you were discovering things about them, family secrets you might not otherwise have realized. Would you say that's true?

Yeah, Gregg, I think that's exactly true. I think that's one of the benefits that I got from deciding to write a memoir. I sort of researched my own life, my own soul and my own thoughts, so I couldn't hide beneath a character or the need to entertain. A memoir is, by definition, mostly true. When I was perhaps afraid to face certain things about myself, my love for Johann, my addiction, my family, because I was writing a memoir and I am a fairly honest

person, therefore I was forced to really dig deep and face the truth about all of those things.

If you're going to take a hard look at other people in your life, you better turn the same sort of gaze at yourself. That's something that I really tried to do in the book, was to be a little unsparing about myself and my own sort of flaws and responsibility for the things that were going on in this really dark period in my life.

Your connections to other families — your ex Alan's mother, Gloria, and Johann's brother — also seemed to function as a means of helping you in dealing with your own familial relationships. Would you agree?

Yeah, very much. I also think that's something, as a gay man, that I am forced to think about. I have been required, as all gay people are, to redefine what it means to be part of a family. Part of our experience is that we surprise our birth family by telling them and finding out for ourselves who we really are. So there is that adjustment that has to be made. Then we have to go out into the world, and we say to the world, "We're going to have a family, too. It's just not the kind of family that you expect us to have." So, family is always something that has been on my mind.

I grew up in small-town America at a time when it really was small-town America. It was like



'I tried to be a little unsparing.'

Mayberry, R.F.D. Where I grew up, you still went into the drugstore and ordered a lemon Coke at the counter. Who I was defied all the expectations of that place and that era. I don't think I stated this in the book, but when I was

growing up, I never heard the word homosexual or the word gay spoken aloud. I was in college before I heard either of those words spoken aloud.

I heard other, derogatory words, like faggot or pussy, and they were sometimes directed at me, or I was always relieved when they were directed at someone else for a change. But I think I was 20 before someone in my presence said the word homosexual. It was a different time. I had to go out and find out how I can be a homosexual who remains connected to my family and also has a family of my own. How do I do that in this world? ▼

## FILM

# Resfest repast

by David Lambie

Resfest is the annual Indian Summer clambake where animation and cutting-edge dance music collide and spawn. Held over four days at the Palace of Fine Arts (9/30-10/3), it's a mix of 190 shorts and features, some very imaginative and others somewhat content-challenged. The highlights of this year's Resfest include a retrospective of British filmmaker Jonathan Glazer (*Sexy Beast*).

Among the best of what we screened is *Brand Spanking*, a visually arresting and witty satire on schools of the not-too-distant future that are totally corporate-sponsored. Created by John-Paul Harney, with a voice cast that includes *Fawcety Towers* regular Prunella Scales, the 10-minute animation stars one tough little kid who refuses to give into the Cola Cola-sponsored version of world history.

Not one but two films in this year's Resfest were inspired by the ideas of Noam Chomsky, the controversial political theorist and ex-friend of Ralph Nader. *Pirates & Emperors (or, Size Does Matter)* by Eric Henry is an animated throwback to 19th-century political cartoons, reviving the figure of Uncle Sam as a symbol for American imperial ambitions. While this weighs in at a tolerable four minutes, the other Chomsky-inspired opus, *The Corporation*, is a stupefying 150 minutes. I couldn't watch this one again without some really strong drugs. Given the Resfest crowd, this is probably an option. ▼

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PHOTO BY TONY FONG



## MUSIC

# Travels with Che

## Scoring 'The Motorcycle Diaries'

by Michael McDonagh

I'm not gonna wait 'til I feel compelled to put these feelings down," composer Gustavo Santaolalla ("Santa-o-lie-a") remarks. The Argentine musician, who called your reporter from the office of his record company Surco in LA, wasn't being arrogant, just practical. The subject at hand was his latest film score, for director Walter Salles' new pic *The Motorcycle Diaries*, about the young "Che" Guevara's 1952 road trip across the South American continent with his best friend. It opens October 1 at the Clay.

Film scoring is a tough, seat-of-your-pants biz, and the anxiety level can be straight through the roof. Even Hans Zimmer, of *Gladiator* fame, still fears he might get canned at any moment. But Santaolalla couldn't be more relaxed and affable, and for good reason. Salles hasn't put the screws on him, and he didn't have to campaign to work with him, either. Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, with whom he worked on his first film score, *Amores Perros* (2000), and *21 Grams* ('03), suggested him to Salles. Santaolalla read the script, then met with the director to discuss their approach. "I like to establish a very close artistic relationship with the director," the musician observes. His hand-in-glove working method has been compared to that between composer Ennio Morricone, whom Santaolalla admires, and Sergio Leone.

Close partnerships between composers and directors are quite common. One naturally thinks of Bernard Herrmann and Hitchcock — 'til the overrated director failed to use Herrmann's score for the 1966 *Torn Curtain*, and hired John Addison. Then there's John Williams and Spielberg, and Alex



Composer Gustavo Santaolalla

North and John Huston. But the living American directors and their hands-off relationships with their musical collaborators whose work Santaolalla's seems most to resemble are those between Philip Glass and Godfrey Reggio (five films) and Martin Scorsese, who played Glass' music on the set of *Kundun* ('97). Santaolalla got similar respect from Salles.

### Equal rights

Composers like it when they're treated like equal partners, not just brought in late because the moguls want them, in the post-production phase because it's cheaper. The results usually show. Santaolalla was clearly inspired by the idealism of the film's two main characters, the 23-year-old Guevars, played by the hot new Latin star Gael García Bernal, and Alberto Granado, played by Rodrigo de la Serna. Santaolalla says his main title tune, "Apertura" ("Window" or "Opening") on electric guitar, with acoustic guitar, and polyrhythmic string and percussion support, was used because it's a rock 'n' roll staple, and

because "for me, the idea of two young guys on the road has the power of a bike." Which isn't to say this score is a rock one. Far from it, because there are lots of timbral subtleties. After all, the composer's music from his '96 Nonesuch CD *Ronroco* was used in a pivotal scene in Michael Mann's '99 *The Insider*, and reappears in an orchestrated version in Mann's latest, *Collateral*.

Santaolalla also uses the Argentine guitar in *Diaries*, which has a bigger soundbox than its Mexican relative, a staple in mariachi music. This guitar gives Santaolalla the *duende* needed for an intense Latin picture. The composer's use of the *cájon*, a box hit with the hands or just about anything else in *flamenco*, is even more evocative. Santaolalla spices his mix with a variety of *charango*, an Andean wind instrument; he also plays percussion, bass, and vibes. There are also three song-and-dance numbers not by him, which provide widely contrasting moods. Jorge Drexler's "Al Otro Lado del Río" has the illustrious Ben Sidran on piano.

Though the 53-year-old Santaolalla admits he's new to film-scoring — "It's a learning process for me" — his work has brought him to the attention of major league directors like Ang Lee, for whom he scored Heath Ledger starrer *Brokeback Mountain*. The composer's *Motorcycle Diaries* is striking and entirely evocative. Judged by its sound alone, it seems a fair candidate for inclusion with two other great Mexican-based scores: North's Oscar-nominated one for Elia Kazan's '52 *Viva Zapata!*, and Eliot Goldenthal's '02 Oscar-winning one for Julie Taymor's *Frida*. That's more than a little impressive for an admitted beginner. Chopped liver it ain't. *Opens Friday.* ▼

# The candidate

## Music press elects the best

by Tim Pfaff

As if The Election weren't enough to drive you mad, members of the music industry are being asked to vote for Musician of the Year for *Gramophone*, the UK classical-music magazine that, for want of significant competition, has become the profession's Bureau of Standards. The results, due in its October issue, will trumpet who among the following — pianists Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Leif Ove Andsnes, singers David Daniels, Bernarda Fink, and Madalena Kozena, and conductor Paavo Järvi — gets the nod. There is a one-year term, but no job.

By rights, Daniels should get the gay bloc's vote, but it's hard to cast after his latest CD of 19th- and 20th-century music, which did more to show what he shouldn't sing than what he can so wonderfully. What I hate is that it makes me think (more) about Andsnes, who is on the stump with two recent releases, a Schubert *Winterreise* with one of his regular vocal colleagues, Ian



Bostridge (EMI), and a far more compelling disc of the Bartók Violin Sonatas with Christian Tetzlaff (Virgin), who rounds out the CD with the composer's valedictory Sonata for Violin Solo.

It makes me wonder yet again (though I could care less) whether Andsnes is gay. I don't need him to come out in terms of his sexuality; I want him to come out as an artist. Worse, it makes me ask myself if the Norwegian is a truly great musician — or, closer to the bone, the "Am I the jerk?" question, which asks what others hear in his playing that I don't. It's a dilemma I don't face with, say, René Fleming, to whose singing I remain largely impervious, when

I don't think she's gone 'round the bend. The British press all but licks Andsnes, which says far more about the Brits than the Norsk. Most confounding of all for me was The Trouble, when in 1997 the Gilmore Foundation (America's arbiters of piano supremacy in the Van Cliburn off-years) made him its five-year crown-holder.

### Ensemble peace

Proving yourself a true ensemble musician is back in favor, and Andsnes has accented ensemble playing in his recent recordings. The Bartók with Tetzlaff is clearly the pick of the litter. For starters, the First Sonata forces him to play against Tetzlaff as much as with him, and Andsnes responds with some of his most high-profile playing to date. Still, there's no mistaking that Tetzlaff can do more with a phrase than Andsnes can with an entire movement. The largely expressionist sonata is, for the most part, harsh and uncompromising, adjectives not associated with the pianist's disposition.

Not surprisingly, his finest

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# The naked civil servants

by Jim Nawrocki

*Queer Beats: How the Beats Turned America On to Sex* edited by Regina Marler; Cleis Press, \$16.95

The group of postwar American writers known as the Beat Generation, a group that included Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs and

many others, produced a body of work that continues to attract new generations of readers. Nearly all of the principal Beat writings remain in print, and biographies and studies of Beat writers and their work have become something of a cottage industry. Kerouac, Ginsberg and Burroughs are now cult heroes. This has come about as a result of their writings but also, and perhaps even more so, because of the image they pro-

jected and the carefree, iconoclastic lifestyle they exemplified.

From the accounts of Kerouac's speed-fueled writing marathons to the descriptions of Ginsberg and Burroughs' quest for the legendary hallucinogen yage, much has been written about the muse-like role that drugs played in the life and work of the Beats. Though it is well-known that Ginsberg and Burroughs were homosexual, and

that Kerouac was bisexual, not much has been written about the sexuality of the Beats, and there have been few attempts to explore the complicated and sometimes conflicted sex lives of these writers.

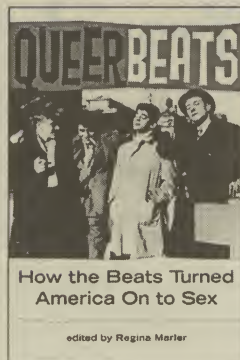
In recent years, scholars and biographers have started to open up this territory. Ellis Amburn's 1998 book *Subterranean Kerouac*, for example, delves deeply into the writer's ambiguous sexuality. Regina Marler's new anthology *Queer Beats* breaks new ground in chronicling Beat sexuality.

In postwar, pre-Stonewall America, few were eager to proclaim their homosexuality, and even the rebellious Beats were initially timid about the subject. Ginsberg, who later celebrated the homoerotic in his poetry and became a kind of latter-day Whitman, was initially conflicted about his identity. Kerouac, who slept with men many times, nonetheless made sure to project a decidedly macho image. Burroughs never quite embraced his homosexuality. But all three writers dealt with gay themes in their writings, to varying degrees. Nakedness was their muse, and they used it to challenge the conventions of "civilized" America. Marler's book assembles writings by and about Burroughs, Ginsberg and Kerouac, as well as several others, to present a uniquely effective portrait of how the Beats lived and portrayed their sexuality.

## Circle games

*Queer Beats* draws upon the Beats' fiction, poetry and autobiography and also delves into their correspondence, their journals, and some unpublished works. Marler also finds place for lesser-known Beats, such as Herbert Huncke, perhaps the most openly gay writer of the entire group, and Alan Ansen, "the best 'undiscovered' Beat poet." She includes, too, the work of non-Beat writers like Gore Vidal, and straight writers, such as Norman Mailer, who admired the Beats and intersected with their circle.

After a lengthy introduction in which she places in context their "revolution of the flesh as well as the word," Marler presents the selections in three distinct group-



ings, with separate introductions for each. These portray the Beats' lifestyle of excess, their relationships with the men who inspired their writing, and their emergence and growing influence on American culture.

The major Beat documents are well-represented: Ginsberg's *Howl*, Kerouac's *On the Road*, and Burroughs' *Queer*. But it is the many letters and excerpts from journals and memoirs collected in *Queer Beats* that give the anthology an almost conversational quality and help carry the narrative drama of the Beat story. For example, in chronicling the famous dalliance between Kerouac and Vidal, Marler presents Vidal's engaging description of the event from his memoir *Palimpsest* (and presents it as a kind of antidote to Kerouac's fictional portrayal of it in his novel *The Subterraneans*). A brief excerpt from Harold Norse's *Memoirs of a Bastard Angel* provides a glimpse of a somewhat wild Beat party.

There are some delightful curiosities in the book. One is Huncke's essay, "On Meeting Kinsey," in which he describes his impressions on meeting and becoming a subject for the famous sex researcher. Another is Mailer's defense of Burroughs' masculinity. Marler also includes the feminine perspective on the Beats in Diane Di Prima's *Memoirs of a Beatnik*. A short story by Jane Bowles, not a Beat, but wife of Beat-by-association writer Paul Bowles, is also included.

An engaging mix of fiction, poetry and memoir, Marler's collection is well-rounded and fascinating. Though it focuses on Beat sexuality, it's also an excellent introduction to the work of this intriguing group of writers. ▼

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## The candidate

◀ previous page

work is in the mysterious middle section of the first movement and the more patently spiritual Adagio. The mellow, more folk-music-based Second Sonata achieves a truer partnership. It's difficult music for both parties, but Andsnes is far more in his element as accompanist. It's not a disc you're likely to pull off the shelf often — unless November ushers us into a world where a deep inner scream seems one way to vent.

What may draw you back often

is the sublime Solo Sonata, Bartók's valedictory, Bach-drenched last testament. Tetzlaff's account of the work is deeply satisfying, and seems none the stronger for being on its own, musically.

There's plenty of room in today's music scene for a player with Andsnes' personal and artistic integrity. He's incapable of playing anything badly and, regrettably, almost as unable of achieving something truly individual. If he wins over Pierre-Laurent Aimard, whose pianism never lacks for inner fire, it's because he's mastered a chaste, immaculate "God Save the Queen." ▼

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## FILM

# World charade organization

## Bichelbaum & Bonanno invent 'The Yes Men'

by David Lamble

It started off as another bad day at work. Andy Bichelbaum was a computer programmer. "I was in charge of the little people running through a videogame. I was just fed up with the job, feeling frustrated for all kinds of reasons, including the recent breakup with a boyfriend." In an idle moment, Bichelbaum thought it would be funny if all the boys in the game ran around in swim trunks and started kissing each other. "I intended it to be quite rare that they would do that, but it turned out to be a lot more common than I thought. It was quickly discovered, and I was fired."

Normally, that would have been that, but Bichelbaum extended the reach of the gag. "I sent out a little press release, and *Wired* ran an article about it. Suddenly it was a big story, on TV. I was surprised that people would be interested in anything quite so dumb!"

The germ of a more subversive idea was already growing in his head, but Bichelbaum needed a partner. "I wanted to popularize

that sort of activity as a way to do activism that might appeal to goofy-minded people like myself."

The goofiest person to show up turned out also to have served time in the toy department of the gender wars. Mike Bonanno is best-known as the founder of the Barbie Liberation Organization [BLO], which went around systematically changing the voice boxes of Teen Talk Barbie dolls and talking GI Joe dolls. So the GI Joe said things like, "I love to shop with you," and Barbie said, "Dead men tell no lies!" "We put them back on store shelves, and what kids got at Christmastime was an 'improved' toy," Bonanno put out a press release on behalf of BLO, claiming the prank as a statement on gender stereotyping in children's toys.

Bichelbaum and Bonanno [B&B] founded The Yes Men, an ad hoc political protest group dedicated to reminding the world that the Left (perhaps for the first time since the fall of Abbie Hoffman) retains a sense of humor. With images of sexy boys in ski masks smashing into Starbucks becoming counterproductive

post-9/11, B&B decided to return to the Yippie playbook of the late '60s, with a nod to other media provocateurs.

The Yes Men movie opening 10/1 is a hybrid between the nihilistic bent of Stanley Kubrick and Terry Southern's work in *Dr. Strangelove*, with just a whiff of the observation humor of Allan Funt's *Candid Camera*. Recent Yes Men pranks have included dressing up in orange orangutan suits urging Castro residents to sign petitions for gay divorce.

As Yes Men, B&B roam the planet posing as The World Trade Organization (with a genuine appearing WTO website). From Finland to Australia to Upstate New York, the Yes Men, conservatively attired and with Marine Corps-style haircuts, preach the free trade gospel of the WTO so fervently that they always expect to be exposed — as they were at a college whose students heckled the notion of fast food for Third World populations made from recycled human waste. The Yes Men's attempt to impersonate the Bush/Cheney Campaign prompted a cease-and-desist e-mail. ▼



Andy Bichelbaum & Mike Bonanno promote social change through pranks.

## Arab Film Fest

◀ Arts cover

to fly between him and one of his subjects, the seductive Farid (Riyad Echahi).

*The Road to Love* is paved with a sensual rhythm; the boys tease with provocative chatter, frequent showers (a squeaky-clean cast) and strategic removal of clothing. Filmmaker Lange has a clever multicultural agenda: these young North African refugees speak fluent French (their god is the sexy thief Genet) while pining for their troubled homelands. Karim and Farid visit the Arab gay mecca of Marrakech, Morocco, in a gentle spoof on Western sex-tourists. (Castro, 10/2, followed by a panel on gay issues in the Arab world.)

**Generation X-Saddam** Director Shelley Saywell's second trip to Baghdad is shadowed by her fears for the well-being of the young friends she made on the first trip. A tightly-paced 45 minutes reveal more about the impact of the

American invasion on young, urban Iraqis than a year of the nightly news. There are pathos, paradox and tragedy to spare: a young female student is missing from her looted college campus; a young man who vowed revenge on Americans turns up working for CNN; and a young man barely into his teens considers his future with a piece of shrapnel in his head. (Roxie, 10/3, followed by "Witness in Iraq" discussion.)

**Paradise Lost** Ebtisam Mara'ana creates an engaging nonfiction mystery. A young Israeli Arab woman ponders the whereabouts of a charismatic female Palestinian activist who disappeared from her native village in the midst of the first Intifada. History and an intense dialogue between two strong women of differing generations and destinies. (Roxie, 10/3, with *Children of Fire*.)

**Control Room** Another chance to catch this year's best Arab-themed documentary. Filmmaker Jehane Noujaim draws on her own mixed

heritage to demonstrate the impact of electronic journalism on once-cloistered and largely feudal societies. (Castro, 10/2) ▼

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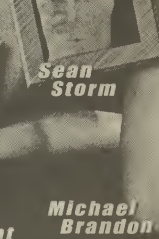
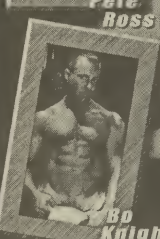
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# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare

by Mark Mardon

### Weigle room

**H**is shirt open and hairy chest exposed, backed by masterful musicians on drums, bass and lead guitar, wiry, mustachiod powerhouse performer **Mark Weigle** packed a wallop last Thursday night at the Eagle Tavern, putting on a kick-ass leather-week show that had the house rockin' and rollin'. He played mostly songs of an upcoming album which is sure to be a hot seller, since it's packed with hot, hot, sexy songs! Weigle was on fire himself as he seduced the house, singing about blow jobs and other fun stuff. He threw his wiry body around and worked up a good sweat as he came out and gave bear hugs to all the bears. You'll be hearing much more about this dynamic musician as the release of his album approaches. For now just know he's out and unabashed about who he is. He even challenged anyone in the audience who had the hots for him to reconsider knowing he has HIV. Not a soul turned down his offer for sex. It was that kind of audience, what with the leather spankings going on out on the patio and all. Weigle will be entertaining at Tucson Pride on October 9, then the next day he'll be back in the Bay Area for a free concert for "Out in Oakland!" at Lake Merritt.



Mark Weigle

**Shauna Virago and the Deadly Nightshade Family** took the Eagle stage around midnight, then again on a sunny Sunday at the packed **Folsom Street Fair**, where they wowed me and the crowd with a dynamic line-up including "My Inner Bitch," "Not Everyday People," and "Transsexual Dominatrix," among other songs. Shauna's got the looks and the moves and the chops for a true tranny-dom rock star. She'll be playing this week at the Peacock Lounge (see calendar).

It was a lively week not only for music but for literary events, including the launch on October 22 of **Mattilda's** latest anthology, **That's Revolting: Queer Strategies for Resisting Assimilation** (Soft Skull Press), where lots of fans showed up but the books didn't! Nonetheless Mattilda persevered in her charming way, leading readers in a rousing evening of rebellion and anti-establishment sentiment. Mattilda herself launched into her usual tirade against corporate shills, prominently lumping Mayor Gavin Newsom among them.

Then on Friday, October 24, at the cozy and welcoming **Three Dollar Bill Café** on the ground floor of the LGBT Community Center, **Cincy M. Emch** hosted "Queer Open Mic" starting with a song by dynamic singer/songwriter **Holcombe Waller**, who had only days earlier wowed a crowd with a full set at Café Du Nord, in preparation for a new album launch and related tour. The headliner for the night was renowned poet **Daphne Gottlieb** who was so nervous her hands were shaking, but the author of **Final Girl** (Soft Skull Press) nonetheless kept the audience on edge with her seriously edgy, rapid-fire poetry and prose.



Bekka Fink (Hillary Clinton), Elizabeth Millican (Laura Bush) and Joyful Simpson (prostitute) get it on in Laura's Bush at Brava. See Wednesday.

## Fri

### Donald Currie's Sex and Mayhem @ NCTC

Special Event - Solo Show - Theatre III: Sex and Mayhem, written and performed by Donald Currie, directed by John Dixon. Original music by Don Seaver. Currie's extraordinary script based on his highly acclaimed CD series and Seaver's inventively beautiful score combine to create a breathtaking tale of a man swept up in the maelstrom of unfolding history. From the locked down '50s to the triumphs at the start of the new century, Donald was here to see it all, and he took notes. So fasten your seat belts for a wild evening of "Sex and Mayhem." Tickets \$15-25. Runs thru October 10. Thurs-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm. 25 Van Ness Ave. (at Market St.). Tix/info: 415-861-8972; www.nctcfs.org

### Single Spies

@ Theatre Rhinoceros  
Single Spies written by Alan Bennett. National Security, the Royal Family, and other Queens. How many Queens Can One Country Take? Written by Alan Bennett ("The Madness of King George") is a sparkling comic double bill pairing Bennett's two one-act plays: *An Englishman Abroad* and *A Question Of Attribution*. Both are based upon real people and historic circumstances in the early years of the cold war and relate the real-life experiences of the "Cambridge Spies." Show runs thru Oct. 17. \$15 Wednesdays, 8pm; \$23 Thursdays, 8pm; \$28 Fridays/Saturdays, 8pm; \$23 Sundays, 3pm & 7pm. Straight Night Out with reception Thurs., Sept. 30. Tix/info: 415-861-5079; www.therhino.org

### Sandra Reaves-Phillips @ Empire Plush Room

A favorite with San Francisco audiences whether they be at Teatro Zinanni or at ACT on New Year's Eve, Sandra has been thrilling audiences for years. An acclaimed actress and singer, Ms. Reaves-Phillips has appeared onstage in "Raisin," "Black and Blue" and her award-winning performance in "Rollin' at T.O.B.A." She gives a powerful performance in her brand new show "Me, Myself and ... YOU!" \$35 - \$40. Runs September 28-October 9. Empire Plush Room, York Hotel.

### Los Panchos @ Brava Theater Center

Brava Theater Center presents the world-renowned Mexican bolero trio, Los Panchos. Taking their name from the famous Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa, Los Panchos boast a career of almost 40 years, 2500 songs, and over 200 albums. \$30 Main Floor \$25 Mezzanine. \$4 discount for seniors, students & disabled Abuelos! Special: Buy ten tickets and get one free for a senior. All seating reserved. Fri., Oct. 1st @ 8pm

Sat., Oct. 2nd @ 8pm, & Sun., Oct. 3rd at 3pm. The Brava Theater Center (formerly the York Theater), 2789 24th St. (at York St.). Tix: 415-647-2822 (for Spanish, press ext. 2); www.brava.org

### fling

@ Jon Sims Center  
fling, two evenings of performance (Oct. 1 & 2) curated by Sue Roginski and Christy Funsch. Featuring works by Elaine Buckholtz, Kara Davis, Sean Dorsey of Fresh Meat Productions with Mair Culbreth, Kimiko Guthrie of Dandelion Dance Theater, Sue Roginski & Christy Funsch, and Nol Simone. \$10-\$15. 8pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (at 12th St.). 415-554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

### TV-LAND's Three's Company & The Golden Girls @ Theatre Tableau Vivant

Pass The Hat Productions presents: TV-LAND Pilot Episodes of *Three's Company* and *The Golden Girls* Starring Arturo Galster, Hekline, Princess Kennedy, Julia Mitchell, and Jeffery G. Simpson. Directed by Laurie Bushman. \$10 suggested donation. Plays Oct. 1 & 2; 9pm showtime. Theatre Tableau Vivant, 574 Natoma St. Tix: 415-621-8417; jsimpsons@aol.com

### Lesbian/Gay Contra Dance

@ Women's Building  
The multi-talented Erik Hoffman calls to the live music of 3 O'Clock Shadow. Contra is a friendly dance that mixes English, Celtic and Quebecois traditions. It's easy to learn, no fancy footwork; each dance is taught as you do it. A wonderful, low-pressure way to meet new people since each round brings you in contact with everyone else in the room. No partner, special attire or experience required. Everyone welcome. \$10 (or pay what you can). 8-10:30pm (doors open 7:45pm). 3543 18th St. (btwn Guerrero & Valencia). Info: www.lcdf.org/sf

### SF Open Studios

@ SomARTS  
Opening reception & exhibition of Open Studios Artists. Free. 5:30-8:30pm. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Info: sfopenstudios.com

### Speak Out/Stand Up @ The Center

March & Rally: SPEAK OUT Against Racism and Discrimination. STAND UP for Inclusion. Organized by: Black Rap, And Castro for All, APIQWTC, ANSWER, the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, the SF LGBT Pride Celebration Committee, GAPA & others. Co-sponsored by: AIDS Emergency Fund, AIDS Housing Alliance, Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits, Breast Cancer Emergency Fund, CUAU, In Partnership Consulting, Inc., Lavender

Caucus of SEIU, LGADDA, Marriage Equality CA, Men of All Colors Together, Nia Collective, Positive Resource Center, Pride at Work, Queers for Peace and Justice, SF Gay Men's Chorus, SF Lesbian Chorus, Sistahs Steppin' in Pride, the UC Berkeley School of Law Queer Caucus & many others. 5pm. Meet at the LGBT Community Center (Market at Octavia). Info: www.andcastroforall.org

### Reversing Vandalism Auction @ Fort Mason

SF Public Library in assn. with Friends of the SF Public Library presents an exhibit and special silent auction of the *Reversing Vandalism* works of art, consisting of more than 150 works of art created from library books that had been vandalized because they were perceived to have gay content or themes. Part of Friends of the SF Public Library Big Book Sale. 10am-6pm Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center. Info: 415-557-4257.

### Empress China Silk's 40th @ Marlena's

Empress China Silk will celebrate her 40th birthday with a fundraiser for the Leather Flag Fund and her Monarch's Charity Fund. Hosted by Emperor Fernando, Chanel and Chika. Special performance by The Rice Girls, Doug Graff, Gladys Bumps, Ed Morgan, and many more surprise guests. 8pm cocktails; 9pm show. Marlena's, 488 Hayes St. Info: 415-864-6672.

### Pirate Radio & Shawna Virago @ Peacock Lounge

Music Benefit for District 5 Supervisor Candidate Robert Haaland, Featuring bands Pirate Radio and Shawna Virago, and DJ Kinetic. With MC Fairy Butch. Robert Haaland is a veteran SF activist who is running for District 5 Supervisor. Pirate Radio (pirateradiotheband.com) developed their stripped-down and heart-felt sound by drawing in influences such as: the Drapenaghts, the Rolling Stones, the Dirtbombs, Neil Young, Uncle Tupelo, and Big Star. Shawna Virago (shawnavirago.com) is a transsexual rock star, movie producer, artist and political activist. She performs both as a solo artist and with her band, The Deadly Nightshade Family. \$5-\$10 sliding. Doors open 8pm for mingling, imbibing, and music. Peacock Lounge, 552 Haight St. (near Fillmore). Info: call the Robert Haaland campaign at 415-409-1318.

### The Hunger @ The Rawhide

The Hunger, the 2nd Annual Gathering of The Vampire Club. Vendors include Lord of the Fangs, Gothic Fashion fierce Couture, Retro Diva, Troll Forge (Jewelry and Claws), and Tarot by Amara. Open to consenting adults 21+ w/ID, and is Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, Intersexed,

Heterosexual, and Poly friendly. Vampire, Angelic, Gothic, & Club Attire/Costumes highly encouraged. Proceeds benefit The Pagan Alliance, organizers of the Pagan Festival every May in Berkeley. \$10 adv. or b4 10pm; \$15 in costume after 10pm; \$20 mundane (w/o costume after 10pm). Info: www.thehungers.org; www.pagan-festival.com

## Sat

### Russian River Tricycle Race & Toy Drive

Jeff Hettinger, Mr. Russian River Eagle 2005, presents the first-ever Russian River Tricycle Race & Toy Drive. \$20 entry fee or minimum of \$50 sponsorship. Registration at 12 noon at The Coffee Bazaar; race begins at 1pm. Get sponsors or donations. Decorate your tricycle. Help your community and have a blast in the redwoods. The event will run between the Rainbow, Hemp and Chocolate, the RRR, Woods, Pasta Boys, and the Eagle. The event will have a carnival/circus theme with clowns and original exotic acts. Cotton candy, fabulous prizes, raffles, auction. Proceeds benefit Positive Images, Sonoma County HIV CTC, and maybe buy some condoms. Info: Jeff at 707-869-0455; mrrr-eagle2005@earthlink.net

### SF Open Studios, Weekend 1: South of Market, Potrero Hill, North Beach, Russian Hill, Tenderloin, Bayview, Portola

Visit artists' studios open from 11am-6pm, Oct. 2 & 3. Info: sfopenstudios.com

### Cinemayaat - Arab Film Festival @ Castro Theatre

Film and discussion: Road to Love, Directed by Rémi Lange, followed by panel discussion: "Gay Issues in the Arab World." In Road to Love, Karim, an Arab student in Paris, decides to create a documentary on homosexuality in the Arab culture for a sociology project. Through the project, Karim is forced to face and question his own sexuality, identity, and personal relationships. Homosexuality is still a taboo subject in most Arab and Islamic societies, yet this film is not shy about exploration of historic precedents and contemporary notions of what it means to be gay and Muslim. Cinemayaat hopes to prompt a dialogue concerning this issue and promote acceptance among the diverse members of this community. Following the film Road to Love,

you're invited to stay for a panel discussion exploring the individual experiences of queer members of the Arab/Middle Eastern community. \$10 gen'; \$8 student/senior. 6:15 pm. Castro Theater. Info: www.afr.org

### Love Parade SF

The Love Parade comes from Berlin to San Francisco with some 30 floats and 200 DJs providing electronic music and dancing in the streets! Everyone is encouraged to participate. Move with the floats as the parade progresses from downtown SF to the festival site. The parade begins at Mission & Beale Streets at 1pm, and winds up at Terry Francois Blvd. (across the 3rd St. bridge at China Basin). The Post Parade Festival starts when the first float gets there (about 3pm) and ends at 9pm. \$5 donation. Info: www.loveparadesf.org

### Zephyr Festival Quartet

@ Herbst Theatre  
Zephyr International Chamber Music Course and Festival presents the Zephyr Festival Quartet, presented in collaboration with the Consulate General of Italy, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Celebrazione Italia, and Comune di Courmayeur. Program: Bohuslav Martinu: Three Madrigals for violin and viola (Felicia Moye, violin; Benjamin Simon, viola); Robert Schumann: Fantasiestücke for Cello and Piano, Op. 73 (Martin Osten, cello; Mack McCray, piano); Erno Dohnanyi: Serenade for String Trio, Op. 10 (Felicia Moye, violin; Benjamin Simon, violin; Martin Osten, cello); and Antonin Dvorak: Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 87. \$25. 8pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix: City Box Office, 415-392-4400; cityboxoffice.com

### SF Hiking Club @ Windy Hill, Palo Alto

"We'll start at the top of Skyline and hopefully complete a figure-8 around the fabulous Luristan Estate." It's a moderate 8-12 mile hike with a 1,200-2,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9:15am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 415-487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

### Mani's Story

@ Main Library  
Premiere screening: Mani's Story - Yellow is for Hermaphrodites. Winner of the Quanta Media Award (New Zealand's Oscar®) for Best TV Documentary of 2003. Mani Bruce Mitchell, direct from NZ, will join in conversation with Carol Queen to promote awareness of intersex issues. Sponsored by Intersex Society of North America, Intersex Trust Aotearoa New Zealand, Center for Sex and Culture, Bodies Like Ours, and Intersex Initiative Port-



Shawna Virago and the Deadly Nightshade Family play the Robert Haaland benefit concert at Peacock Lounge. See Friday.





Sue Roginski and Christy Funsch fly in fling at Jon Sims Center for the Arts. See Friday.

land. Free. 2pm. Koret Auditorium. Reception following event in Latino-Hispanic Community Room. 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

**THRIVE @ The LGBT Center**  
Thrive; a group of guys; gay HIV+, breaking the isolation of HIV and not only surviving the disease, but thriving in spite of it. Donation suggested. 1-3 pm. The LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). First Floor Room: Q13. More information and other events, join email list: thriving-subscribe@yahooogroups.com

## Sun

### Castro Street Fair

The most family-friendly GLBTQ event in San Francisco! It's the Castro Street Fair, that wholesome, tasteful, super-friendly affair featuring all your friends and neighbors. Produced by Castro Street Fair, a nonprofit organization. Vendors and info booths galore. Main Stage featuring headliners Mandoza and Pepperspray! Cutest of the Castro Contest Stage at 18th and Collingwood. Country Western Stage behind the Castro Theatre. Electronic Dance Stage behind Walgreens Drug Store. Fair runs 11am-6pm. Make a \$3 donation and get a sticker good for \$1 off all beer and water at the CSF beverage booths all day long. Non-stop outdoor dancing pavilions. Info: [www.castrostreetfair.org](http://www.castrostreetfair.org)

### Sugar Valley

While at the Castro Street Fair, be sure to visit "Sugar Valley," from Hartford to Noe on the North side of 18th street, the area dedicated to local artists, artisans, performers and other free spirits. This year's booths: Reverend Michael St. Germain-Photography; MIM - Paintings; BUILD Gallery - Installation Sculpture; Flower Frankenstein - Big Red Ball sculpture; Sugar Valley Stage; Doctor Q/Steven Clark/ICS - Music; Jean Spinoza - Surprise Party; Sugar Valley Donut Toss Game; Tony Meredith - Panty Toss Game; Dirty Sanchez - Michael Wertz tiki/bigfoot lounge - paintings, prints, and pleather; Scott Barney, Bob Burnside, Peaches, Joelle - art, crafts, dolls, and poi ball creation; National Product - art and prints; Gay Shame; Voter Registration - Hosted by David Van Virden; Kytha Gernatt - interactive painting; Kielbasa - Accordion Playing Lunch Lady; Xar Salan - Henna Tattoos; Jim Winters - Drawing and Prints; Mrs. Vera & Mr. Tina - Painting and Photography; The Wrong Element - Comic Tent; Theresa Thagiya - Photography; Cockettes - Sweet Pam and Kreem Ritz; Trina and Casey Robbins - Paper Dolls and Soap; Sit & Spin - Sugar Valley Lounge; Michael's CWD - Soap; Hekilina and Finney Two Shoes - Tran-

nyshack Karaoke Tent; Pirate Tattoo - Body Painting (10X10). Info: [www.sugarvalley.org](http://www.sugarvalley.org)

### Rudy Lemcke's Light F/X @ ATA Gallery

Artists Television Access presents Light F/X, a continuous video cycle by Rudy Lemcke. A cycle of short video experiments on the themes of light and shadow. Balinese shadow puppets, cameraless video manipulation, and Hollywood special effects are some of the techniques explored in this series. Created to be viewed in a gallery setting, the cycle will be screened in large-format projection at ATA, throughout the day. Lemcke's visual art has been widely exhibited in the Bay Area and throughout the U.S. at prestigious galleries and art museums. Free. Noon-5pm. 992 Valencia St. Info: 415-824-3890; [atasite.org](http://atasite.org)

### DJ Robbie Leslie @ Remember the Party - Encore

White Light Productions presents the return of DJ Robbie Leslie spinning a cornucopia of delicious '70s-'80s disco sounds reminiscent of those halcyon days of SF's preeminent gay dance club, the Trocadero Transfer. Feel the atmosphere and energy of that legendary venue amid a sea of smiling happy faces. Lighting by Bob Bear and "Arc Lamp Diva" Miss Carla who will electrify your senses with dazzling colored lights. Bring fans, tambourines, finger cymbals and other methods of percussion to create a sensation of hedonism rarely witnessed today! \$15 adv; \$20 door. 6pm-2:30am. The Glas Kat (formerly known as the Trocadero Transfer), 520 Fourth St. (at Bryant). Tix/info: 415-339-7807; [remembertheparty.com](http://remembertheparty.com)

## Mon

### Barry Humphries @ NCTC

"Hello Possuims!" New Conservatory Theatre Center presents "A Conversation with Barry Humphries" - AKA Dame Edna - "The Man Behind the Woman." Moderated by playwright-in-residence Terrence McNally. Humphries will give an inside look at his career in show business and describe how he came to create Dame Edna and his other world-renowned characters. Born 1934 in Melbourne, Australia, Humphries began his stage career in 1952 in *Call Me Madam*. He has invented many satiric characters such as Sandy Stone, Lance Boyle, Debbie Thwaite, Neil Singleton, Barry (Bazza) McKenzie, and his most famous creations, Melbourne housewife Dame Edna Everage, who debuted in 1955, and Sir Les Paterson in 1974. Interviewer McNally has won four Tony Awards, for *Ragtime* (1998), *Master Class* (1996), *Love! Valour! Compassion!* (1995); and,

*Kiss of the Spiderwoman* (1993). \$75 (rows A-D); \$50 (rows E-G); \$35 (rows H-K). 7pm. NCTC's newly renovated Decker Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave. (at Market). Tix/info: 415-861-8972; [www.nctcsf.org](http://www.nctcsf.org)

### Amy Armstrong @ Empire Plush Room

One night only! Amy Armstrong with Freddy Allen. Chicago based singer Ms. Armstrong makes her Empire Plush Room debut with her musical director Freddy Allen. This marks the release of their third CD *Naturally Flawless*. Ms. Armstrong has captivated audiences across the country and has performed at Denmark's prestigious New Year's Concert given at the Denmark Symphony Orchestra held in Geneva, Switzerland. \$25. 7pm doors; 8pm show. 21 & over. 940 Sutter St.

## Tue

### Close-Up: Screen visionary Ron Nyswaner @ Herbst Theatre

FrameLine presents its second season of *Close-Up: Visionaries of Modern Cinema*, evenings with luminaries of queer film and beyond. The series kicks off tonight with Oscar® nominated (for *Philadelphia*), Peabody Award-winning (for *Soldier's Girl*) screenwriter Ron Nyswaner. On-stage interview conducted by SF Chron critic Edward Guthmann; selected film clips and career highlights, and Q&A with audience. Nyswaner's screenplay for *Soldier's Girl* tells the true story of the murder of PFC Barry Winchell. The film had its world premiere at the 2003 Sundance Film Fest. *Philadelphia*, for which he wrote the screenplay, was the first major studio film to confront AIDS and homophobia. Nyswaner is a founding member of the Actors & Writers Theater Company in upstate New York, serves on the board of the Woodstock Film Fest, and as an advisor for the Sundance Institute. He was honored with a Ryan White Youth Service Award for his activism on behalf of people with HIV/AIDS. He is the author of the newly published memoir of love and obsession *Blue Days, Black Nights* (Advocate Books). \$12. 8pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister St.). Tix: City Box Office, 415-392-4400; [cityboxoffice.com](http://cityboxoffice.com)

### DVPA Art Show @ Main Library

Reception/exhibition: "4th Annual Deaf Visual and Performing Artists (DVPA) Art Show." An exhibition of professional & amateur deaf artwork. Artists will be at the exhibit to discuss their work. Work shows from 5-8pm, First Floor, Deaf Services Center. Reception 5:30-7:30pm, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 5:30-7:30pm. 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

### Putanesca @ Trannyshack

Putanesca poses the question, "Which Witch Is Which?" at this magically bewitching benefit for the Russian River Massacre. Hekilina hosts. Miss Chocolate at the Door. DJ Derek spins. Show at midnight. \$8 cover this night. The Stud, 399 9th St. (at Harrison). Info: [hekilina.com](http://hekilina.com)

## Wed 6

### Laura's Bush @ Brava Theater Center

Brava Theater Center presents *Laura's Bush* by Jane Martin. Decoding Morse code distress signals sent by First Lady Laura Bush, a doddering librarian named Dodie and aging prostitute embark on a mission to rescue her. A complex web of intrigue ensues, involving a chocolate Bill Clinton, a vanilla condi Rice, and an Iraqi sheep-herding body double. The world's most celebrated anonymous playwright, Jane Martin, sets out to entertain the troops in this close election season. So come and laugh your freedom-lovin' butt off! \$14 Wed.; \$16 Thu. & Sun.; \$18 Fri. & Sat. 8pm (3pm Sun.). Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th St. (near York/Hampshire, btwn Bryant & Potrero; parking available at SF General Hospital, 23rd and San Bruno). Tix: 415-647-2822; [www.Brava.org](http://www.Brava.org)

### Fall Opera Preview @ Main Library

The San Francisco Opera Guild presents a lecture by John Palmer on composer Giacomo Puccini's opera *Tosca*. 12 noon. Main Library, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

## Thu

### Jess Curtis/Gravity @ Dance Mission Theater

Jess Curtis/Gravity present an evening of dance performance featuring American premieres by Jess Curtis/Gravity (SF), Kathleen Hermesdorf/Motion Lab (SF), Stephanie Maher (Berlin), Matthias Hermann (Berlin), and Jörg Müller (Marseille). Jess Curtis/Gravity present *Performance Research Experiment #1: Virtuosity and Engagement*, a duet for Curtis and juggler/dancer extraordinaire Jörg Müller from Marseille. Plus excerpts from *Touched: symptoms of being human* (to be premiered in full next June at YBCA). Hermesdorf and Maher reunite after a long history of collaboration in *Schwebzustand*. Info: [www.jesscurtis-gravity.org](http://www.jesscurtis-gravity.org); [www.motion-lab.net](http://www.motion-lab.net); [www.emerco.de/jorg](http://www.emerco.de/jorg)

### Balé Folclórico da Bahia @ Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

Cal Performances presents Balé Folclórico da Bahia, Brazil's only professional folk dance company, with 38 dancers and musicians, performs *Brazilian Rhapsody*, featuring the spectacular Afro-Brazilian martial art of capoeira; *Samba de Roda*, the precursor of the samba; Maculelê, a dramatic dance, and the rousing Samba Reggae that permits no one in the audience to finish the evening sitting down. \$22. \$30 & \$42. Thu & Fri, Oct 7 & 8, at 8pm. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus, Bancroft Way at Telegraph. Berkeley. Tix: 510-642-9988; [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu)

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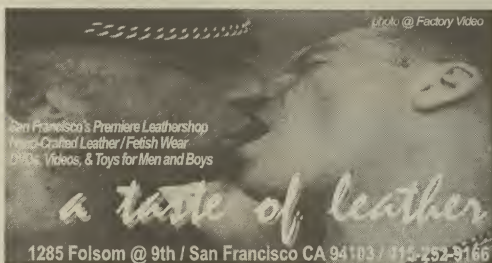
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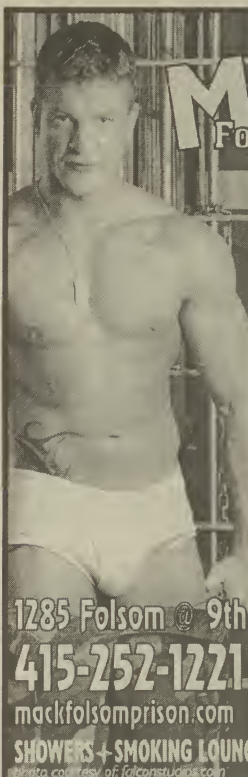


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# It's in the bag

'Dodger' Allen wins Mr. SF Leather 2005

by Mister Marcus

Leather Pride Week 2004 in San Francisco has got to be one of the most successful events this city has seen! Unofficial police estimates claim slightly over 500,000 people attended the 21st annual Folsom Street Fair, the world's biggest leather gathering. In terms of attendance, it is an international event with people of the leather persuasion visiting from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, England, France, Germany, Holland, Iraq, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia and Yugoslavia. The most savory of all were the men from Colt Nation — yes, Colt Studios has moved to San Francisco and were sponsors for the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2005 contest. Their booth at the Folsom Street Fair on Sunday drew more attention than the spanking booths, and that's saying something!

Almost 200 events took place during Leather Pride Week, and that's not counting the Folsom Fringe events in San Jose. There were long lines at restaurants and bars; the shops specializing in not just leather and sex toys were gleefully ringing up sales as fast as they could process the plastic, cash and checks. It looked like a giant sale at Auto Erotica and Rock hard in the Castro and at Mister S and Stompers Boots in the South of Market area. The slogan, "Keep San Francisco Green — Bring Money" was resounding loud and clear.

Thousands of dollars were raised for charities at almost every turn: the Leather Walk, Leather Daddies Art Auction, Mark I. Chester's superb photo show, the Edge's benefit for the Leather Archives & Museum and countless other events.

The major titleholders who weren't here this past weekend were in Asbury Park, New Jersey for the Mr. and Ms. New Jersey Leather competition. Ms. Storm and Mr. Jerrold passed their titles to that spunky Amanda "Pup" Farrell and Tom Mead. Queen Cougar emceed the event but at my deadline, I had no other details.

In Indianapolis, Jerry Roseberry emceed his own stepping aside of the Mr. Indiana Falcon leather title also on Saturday night at the



"Dodger" Allen was chosen by judges to be Mr. San Francisco Leather 2005 last Saturday afternoon. He will compete at IML 2005 in Chicago for the Int'l. Mr. Leather title.

contest that yielded Eric Hinsch as the new titleholder. Oh there's more coming...you can bet your boots on that.



Leather

The Folsom Street Fair? What can you say but that it was superb. Beautiful kinky people doing their "thing" at every turn. The vendors had great merchandise, the weather was superb and so was everything about the event. Thanks, Folsom Street Events. You outdid yourselves — again. The City that Knows How? You bet!

**Exit Marshburn, enter 'Dodger'**

Another huge crowd materialized for the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2005 contest on Saturday afternoon at City Nights. Audrey Joseph once again proved that she is Mistress of Leather productions and the Mr. SF Leather Contest committee and volunteers served

up a raunchy, delightful kinky afternoon with four hot men competing for the title. Shann Carr returned for a triumphant comedic show stopper that had the audience rolling in the aisles.

Leather titleholders from around the nation came to honor outgoing Mr. SF Leather 2003 Julian Marshburn, attesting to the dynamic impression he made with the IML Class of 2004. His six-minute step-aside speech was as well received as the one he gave when he won the title a year ago.

Judges Troy Anicete, Jody Hoenninger, Jeff Bruff, Peter Fiske and Glenn Tanking had a difficult task at hand with an outstanding group of men who amazed even this seasoned observer, and I've judged almost 500 leather contests.

The "fun" aspect of the event was fueled by humorous on-stage questions, and a four-part jumbled screen game where the contestants were obliged to formulate a cogent sentence using XXX rated

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### September 30-October 2

4th Annual Bay Area Cub Contest with a meet & Greet and Bears in Boxers party at the Lone Star Saloon from 2000 to 2300 on Thursday. Contest on Saturday from 1500 to 1900. To benefit Camp Sunburst. Bring unwrapped toy for Mama's annual drive and get 5 free raffle tickets.

### Weekend, October 1-3

Mr. Atlantic Canada Leather Contest in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. No details at my deadline. Golden Gate Guards weekend run to Camp Mendocino is sold out for "Sordid Lives-Trailer Trash in Leather".

### Saturday, October 2

The New York Eagle celebrates their 34th anniversary tonight with the Mr. NY Eagle Leather contest where the winner gets a \$3,000 cash prize. That scamp Brian Kent steps aside after a great year.

First-ever tricycle race up at the Russian River

when Mr. RR Eagle Jeff Hettinger hosts the event for charity. Clowns, cotton candy, concession beginning at 1300; sign up by 1200. Info: Mrreagle2005@earthlink.net.

### Sunday, October 3

Steve Gaynes has his volunteers in place and it's a "go" for the Castro Street Fair today. Fun, men, women — you know the routine.

Good luck send-off party at the Edge after the fair for Northern California Leather Sir Tom Brad-dock and Leather boy Phil Nickerson before they leave for the competition in St. Petersburg, Florida

### Weekend, October 8-11

International Leather Sir/boy contest weekend at Suncoast Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida. 13 regions, 13 men, 13 boys. I'll be judging so you get the results first.

Queer Biker Invasion of Death Valley, but no Zabriskie Point gathering this year due to closed highways.



# Double trouble

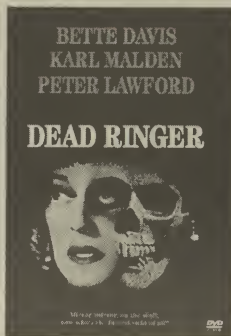
Bette Davis plays twins in new release

by Tavo Amador

No one's as good as Bette [Davis] when she's bad" was the famous tagline that Warner Bros. used for years to promote their once highly-prized star. After the unexpected success of *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* ('62), her historic teaming with Joan Crawford, Davis got another offer from her old studio — to replace Lana Turner in *Dead Ringer* ('64), a thriller about identical twins. It's now available in DVD and is a good example of her later work. The movie is based on the same novel filmed in Mexico as *La Otra* (*The Other*) in '46, starring Dolores del Río.

A shabbily dressed Edith Philips (Davis) gets off a bus in Los Angeles and walks to a graveyard where an extravagant funeral is being held. As the services end, a woman elegantly dressed in black mourning recognizes Edith. It's her twin sister Margaret (Davis), whose husband, Frank de Lorca, the last member of one of California's old Spanish families, has just been buried. Hoping to end their lengthy estrangement, Margaret insists Edith come home with her.

Margaret is rich and lives in the magnificent de Lorca mansion. Edith owns a bar in a seedy part of town and lives above it. Eighteen years earlier, Edith had been engaged to Frank, but Margaret seduced him and became pregnant, so he married her. When Edith asks about the child, Margaret says he died in infancy. Margaret wants to reconcile. She showers Edith with designer clothes and a mink stole. "These will be out of style before I get out



of mourning," she insists. Edith isn't ready to forgive and storms out of the house. Margaret's chauffeur drives her home and, responding to Edith's questions, says the de Lorcas never had a son. Margaret lied to trick Frank into marriage.

Edith's cop boyfriend, Jim (Karl Malden), remembers it's her birthday. He gives her a gold watch. She's grateful but edgy. When Jim is forced to break their date, she calls Margaret and demands that she come to her apartment. Margaret agrees. The sisters have a final confrontation before Edith kills Margaret. She switches their identities, leaving a suicide note signed Edith. She's now going to begin life as Mrs. Frank de Lorca.

## Price points

Edith returns to the mansion where an elaborate Catholic rosary service is being held. Naturally, she doesn't know anyone there, but copes. Later, she discovers to her dismay that Margaret had an expensive lover, Tony

(Peter Lawford).

Meanwhile, Jim doesn't believe Edith committed suicide, yet his investigation finds nothing to indicate otherwise. Still, he's nosing around. Tension builds as Edith realizes Margaret's life isn't an easy one, and pretending to be someone you're not is hard. She's caught in a tangled mess. The ending is ironic, effective, and surprising.

Despite being at least 15 years too old — Margaret and Edith are supposed to be about 40, and Davis was a hard-looking 56 when the film was made — she gives a compelling performance. As Edith, Davis is bitter, worn out, yet genuinely grateful for Jim. As Margaret, she's self-involved, patronizing, but eager to make amends, both sympathetic and repellent. The familiar mannerisms are, of course, evident, but they add to the enjoyment, as does her authority. Davis believes so resolutely in what she's doing that the audience does, too. Her clothes (designed by Don Feld) are terrific, especially the sumptuous gowns for Margaret.

Lawford, in a rare unsympathetic part, is excellent. Malden is his usual sincere, slightly bumptious self, but does convey genuine love for Edith and bewildered sadness at losing her. The movie was directed, smoothly, by Davis' *Now Voyager* ('41) co-star, Paul Henreid.

Davis had previously played good and bad twins in *A Stolen Life* ('46), so in a sense she was reprising a previous performance. But that doesn't make this unpretentious film any less entertaining or diminish her splendid star-turn in it. ▼

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

words. The results were extremely funny, and even made sense!

Master of ceremonies Werner Tillinger was forceful and amusing with the task at hand. He's fast becoming an old pro in the MC department.

The 90-second speeches by the contestants were well delivered and insightful, and not one went over the allotted time. The "jock/physique" segment was well received, and there was a rush to the ballot boxes when the public voting announcement was made. I like this addition to the Mr. SF Leather repertoire. The audience deserves as chance to have a voice in who should hold the title, and they love it.

"Dodger" Allen, Tony Bowser, Jay Harcourt and Todd Kinard reinforced the belief that San Francisco's leather community is abundantly well-stocked with quality leather people who are intelligent, resourceful, talented, respectful of the traditions set forth by yes, "the old guard", and they are approachable. No prima donna's in this group.

There were two "surprise" presentations during the proceedings when the Mr. SF Leather Contest committee recognized veteran club member, volunteer, and all-around man Gary Kenyon with a crystal award for his long term of service on the committee. The audience roared with approval when Ross Dierking was announced as



Ross Dierking, left, a fervent supporter of the leather nation and especially the Bare Chest Calendar project, was honored with the Unsung Hero Award for 2004 at the Mr. SF Leather contest last Saturday, September 25. He shared the moment with Chairman of the Mr. SFL 2005 committee Jerry Roberts.

the winner of the Unsung Hero Award for his dedication and perseverance with charitable efforts, and outstanding contributions in the bare chest calendar project. It couldn't have happened to two nicer guys. IML Jason Hendrix gave a short and insightful speech about his own kink experience and seemed to enjoy the evening.

The moment of truth arrived shortly before 1900 when tally masters Tim Wong and Bill Weaver completed their task. The medals were in Julian's hands as Tony Bowser was named the first runner-up to loud applause, and then a tumultuous outburst came when it was announced that

"Dodger" Allen would be Mr. San Francisco Leather 2005.

There were the usual explosions from flash cameras, the usual rush to the stage by friends and well-wishers, the usual "reception" line as other title holders lined up to congratulate "Dodger" and slipping their business cards into his hand as they hugged him. Yes, it was all over for another year and our winner has eight months to gear up for the IML 2005 competition in Chicago next May. And at the Meet & Greet at the Powerhouse on Friday, Julian's "last deal" benefit for the travel fund garnered some \$2700 for our new titleholder. Bravo!

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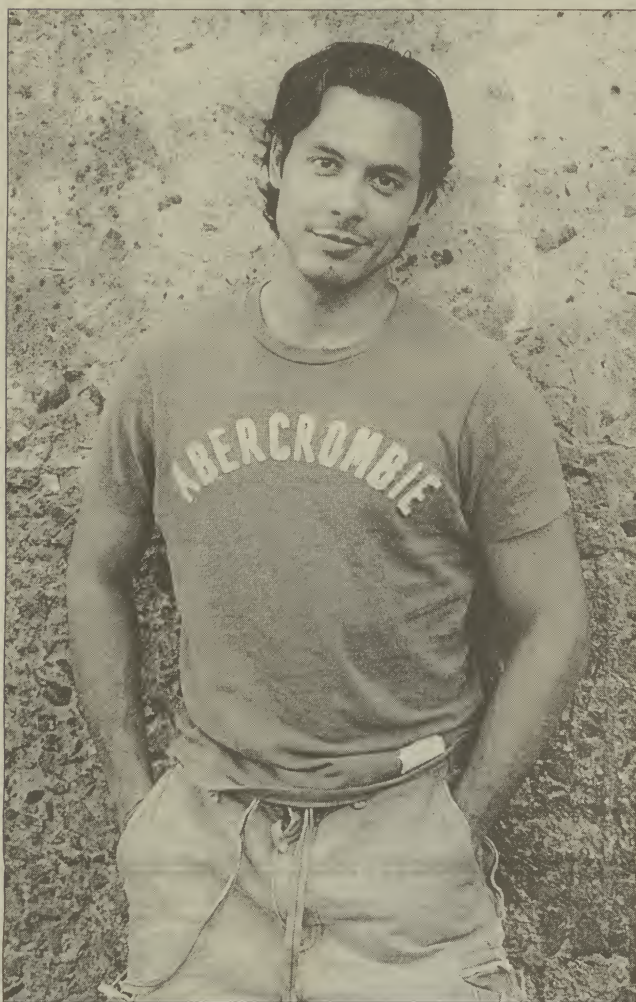
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## PARTING GLANCES

### SF Renaissance Faire 8/29

You - cute guy in black Frameline T-shirt, who helped Juggler. I was in shorts, orange sleeved shirt. Never said hello, then had to go. Want to discuss faire/movies? ☎ 71386

### Subway to Castro 8/26 10PM

You - Stuck-up, red-haired slut cruising seven/eight dudes in train. Me: One of those dudes. Which? You have to guess, you hot-sexy-filthy-disgusting pig! Love, Demura. ☎ 71388

### Do I Know You?

You - nice, dark haired Tom out walking. Me - tall, blu/bln, tongue-tied. You came into my Corbett apt. lobby after bumping car in driveway. Second chance? ☎ 71394

### N Judah Sept. 8 1:30pm

You: D & G blue top and cool GA sunglasses. Me: Dark suit. Would like to meet you - dinner sometime? ☎ 71397

### Pharmacy In Kaiser Hospital

Geary St. - Fri. 09/17 - Around 6pm. We locked eyes. You in drop-off line - Me waiting in pick-up line. Again caught your eyes passing you on my way out. Me - glasses - jeans - holding gray jacket. Still interested? ☎ 71399

### 24 Hr Van Ness Gym: Tues/Thurs

You: Nice Asian, Glasses; Me: Tall, White guy, red tank, grey shorts. Occasionally smiled and said Hi. Sorry we didn't meet. Coffee? ☎ 71400

### Parting Glances 9/25/04

Kaiser Pharmacy - 9-24-04. We met parking elevator - You, 4th floor. Me, 2nd. Did not have a chance to ask name or phone number. Please call me. ☎ 71401

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### Redhead

Santa Rosa native, 43, 5'10", 180#, ex-Navy. Enjoys tennis, chess, talk, radio & reading. Seeks relationship. ☎ 71376

### Seeking Relationship

GWM 48 healthy HIV+ seeking 45 to 55 Black or Latino man HIV+ for companionship and possible LTR. I like going to football, baseball, musicals, and movies. Lonely. ☎ 71377

### Seeking a Friend / Companion

Asian man 65 seeking friend and companion for movie, travel, drives in the country, and intimate moments. Please be trim, muscular, and handsome, under 50. Can we meet and talk. ☎ 71378

### Nice But Lonely in Santa Rosa

Hi boys! Where are you? I am looking for you. Me: 50, 5'6", 180 lbs. Want to show you & me a good time. Espero tenerte en mi brazos con amor. ☎ 71385

### I May Be 66 5'5" 130# But Can

get it up. Gray hair clean shaven seek black men over 40 for more than sex. No strings attached. Height/weight unimportant. Let's get down to it in the Haight. ☎ 71393

## SEEKING ADVENTURE

### Full Leather Rimming Hood

Man in full leather, blindfolded rimming hood wants to meet buddy for long rimming adventures. Hooded man has a muscular build. ☎ 71379

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## PERSONALS

# Recycled Cher

by John R. Killacky

The self-described Lazarus of rock is still on the road with her Farewell Tour. Cher just returned from 29 European dates and is back crisscrossing the States for the third year (although she is taking October off to campaign for John Kerry). She will finally wind down at Sydney's Mardi Gras Festival in February.

Thus far she has performed 250 shows. At \$200 million in ticket sales, Farewell is the highest grossing North American tour in history by a female artist, and was in the top three US tours in both 2002 and 2003. *Fortune* magazine listed Cher as earning \$27 million last year.

Along with touring comes collateral. Her *Very Best of Cher* CD compilation has sold over two million copies, and the Farewell Tour video remains a bestseller. Besides scads of other music CDs, overpriced T-shirts, program books, hats, and key-chains, Cher and her producers have been repackaging plenty of merchandise from the vaults of her four-decade career. Here are a few recent releases of note, including early projects with her former husband and singing partner, the late Sonny Bono.

As their teenybopper "I Got You Babe" days were fading, Sonny tried recreating them as serious artists in both film and music. Although their light and frothy 1967 movie musical *Good Times*, directed by William Friedkin, tanked at the box office, Sonny was determined to build a film career. Taking his lead from Italian neorealist filmmakers, he wrote and produced an unadorned road picture, *Chastity*, starring Cher, that has just been re-released on MGM-DVD.



The ads exclaim, "She's not just a girl, she's an experience!" Cher spends the entire movie running through fields and hitchhiking, as she plays a disaffected waif trying to find herself. Along the way, she is picked up by a trucker, smokes dope, sets up house with a sweet law student, runs off to a Mexican bordello, and is wooed by the lesbian madam. Critics and audiences didn't buy it in 1969, and today only the most die-hard fans will enjoy her self-conscious portrayal of anguished nihilism through thick mascara and youthful acne.

## Singing the blues

Also from 1969, another attempt to reinvent Cher as a more serious musical artist has been reissued, Rhino Records' 3614 *Jackson Highway*. Cher worked at the Muscle Shoals Sound Studios with Jerry Wexler, Tom Dowd, and Arif Mardin (producers of Dusty Springfield, Wilson Pick-

ett, and Aretha Franklin). Here her voice is seductive and understated in a laid-back, Southern bluesy way, as she half-sings/half-speaks melancholic covers of Dr. John, Dylan, and Buffalo Springfield. Critics were kind, but the album received no radio play and peaked at #160 on the *Billboard* charts.

But the real treat is the bonus tracks of previously unreleased material, including two Broadway covers, "Easy To Be Hard" from *Hair*, and the plaintive, ante-bellum "Mama Look Sharp" from 1776. Cher also does gorgeous versions of the Irish standard "Danny Boy" and Leon Russell's "Superstar" (well before Karen Carpenter and Better Midler had their successes with this song).

After both *Chastity* and 3614 *Jackson Highway* failed commercially, Sonny and Cher were completely broke and owed the government \$180,000 in back taxes. So they went on the road as a standup cabaret act, leading to their top-rated '70s TV variety show that ran for five seasons on CBS. Nine hours of highlights from these programs are now available on the DVD, *The Sonny and Cher Ultimate Collection*.

Cher's story songs "The Way of Love," "Dark Lady" and "Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves" are featured, along with weekly comedy and musical duets from the polyester duo in over-the-top Bob Mackie outfits. Performing guests include Glen Campbell, Donny and Marie Osmond, Tina Turner, Michael Jackson, Burt Reynolds, and Farrah Fawcett-Majors.

It is fun to watch these programs with Cher's commentary overlaid. She lovingly talks about Sonny making himself the butt of the jokes, and points out a very young Steve Martin and Teri Garr as part of their comedy ensemble. She laughs along with herself in the "Laverne at the Laundrette" segments. If nine hours of footage is not enough, a new DVD featuring the Bonos' Christmas specials is promised later this fall.

Finally, for those who caught on to Cher later in her career, Warner has released *The Very Best of Cher: The Video Hits Collection*. Works from the last 15 years of her vocal oeuvre are featured, including the sumptuously produced "Believe," "Strong Enough" and "Song for the Lonely." Also of interest are earlier songs "The Shoop Shoop Song" with Winona Ryder and Christina Ricci playfully in the background, and the infamous navy-boat setting for "If I Could Turn Back Time."

The video collection culminates with an exquisite rendition of Naomi Judd's "Love Can Build a Bridge," Cher harmonizing with Chrissie Hynde, Neneh Cherry, and Eric Clapton. This recording and video, previously released only in Europe, were done as a benefit for Comic Relief in 1995.

Once the Farewell Tour does finally end, a future project has Cher going back into the studio to record. She is also scheduled to shoot a new comedy, *In the Pink*, with Bette Midler, Tim Allen and Britney Spears, all playing door-to-door Mary Kay cosmetics sellers. While she claims her touring days will be over, she does mention wanting to do an evening of standards at Carnegie Hall as one fantasy still unrealized. Thus it appears there will be many more products to look forward to and recycle in the years ahead. ▼

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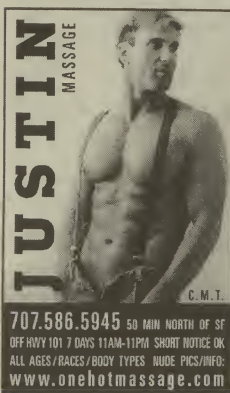
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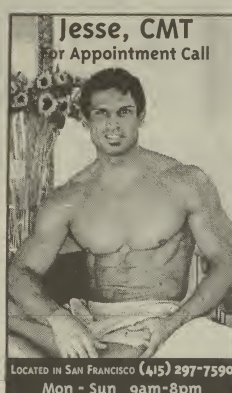
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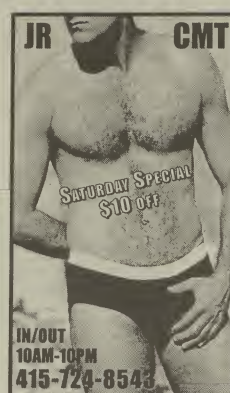
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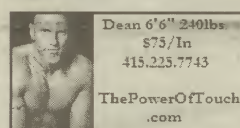
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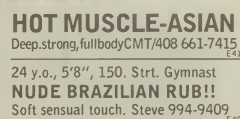
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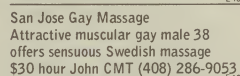
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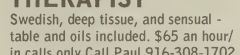
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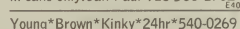
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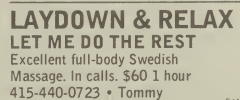
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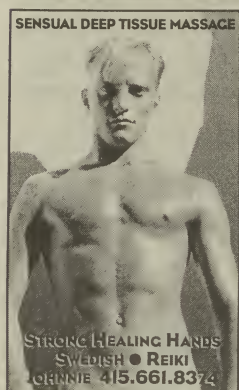
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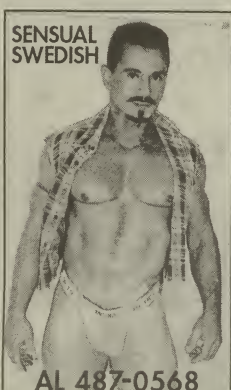


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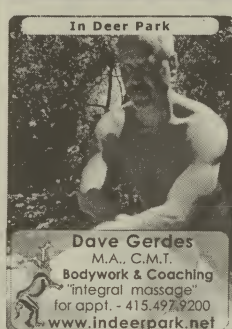
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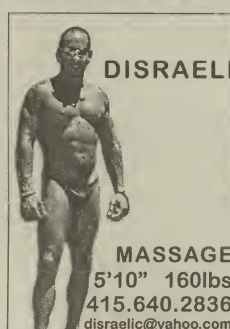
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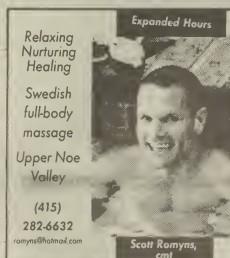
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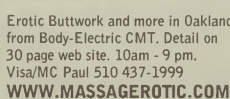


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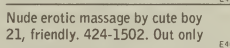
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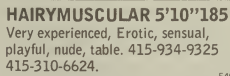
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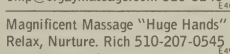
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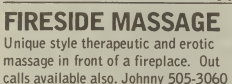
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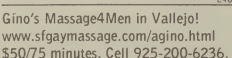
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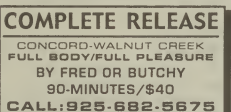
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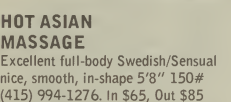
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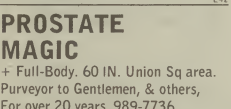
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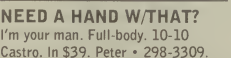
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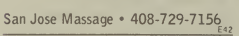
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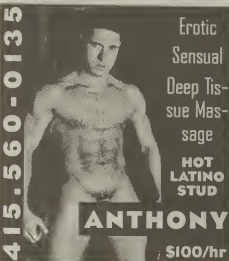
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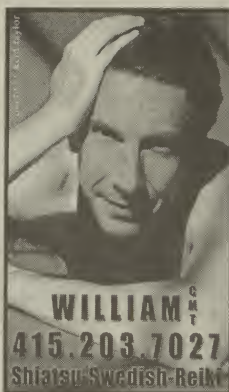
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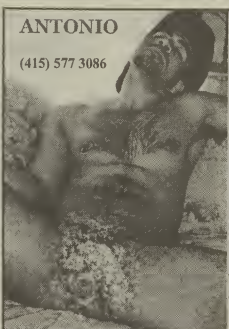
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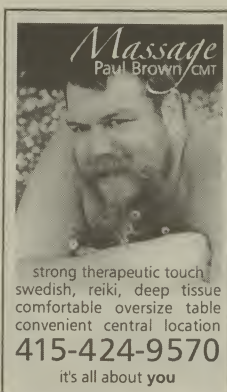
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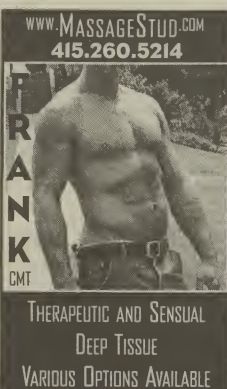
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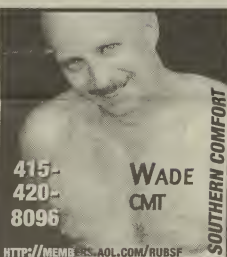
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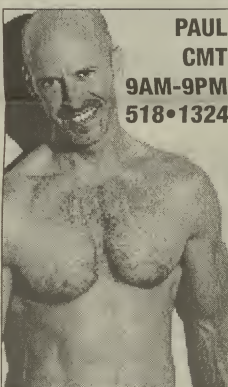
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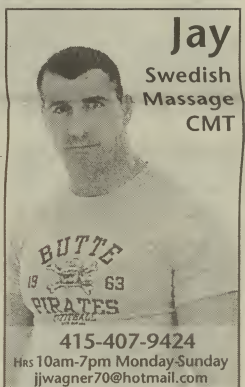


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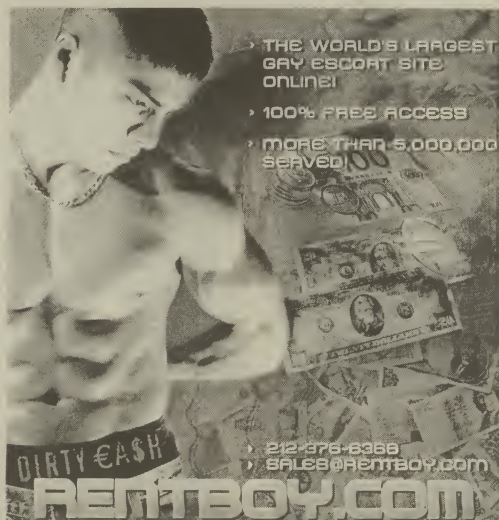
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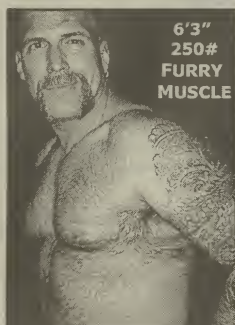
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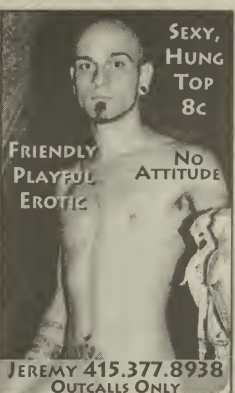
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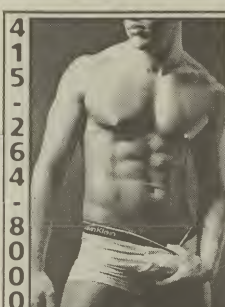
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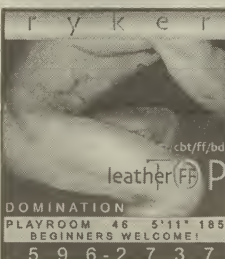
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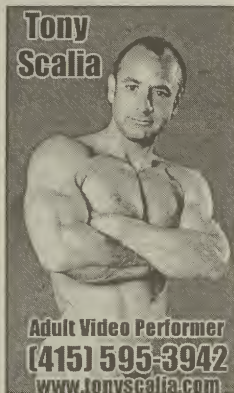
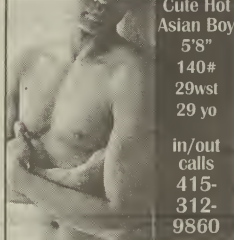
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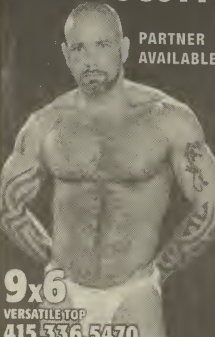
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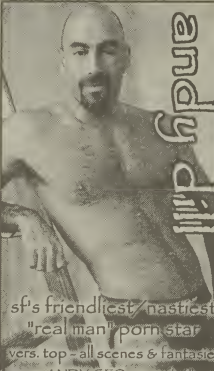
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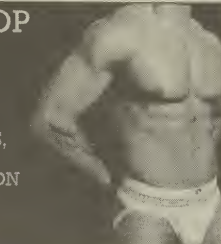
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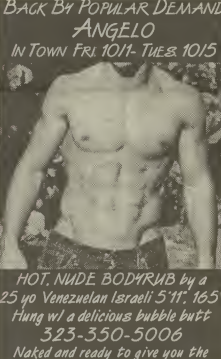
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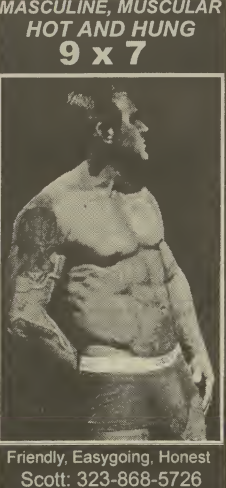
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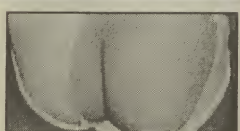
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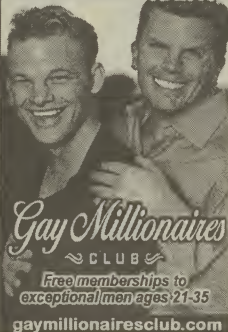
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-S

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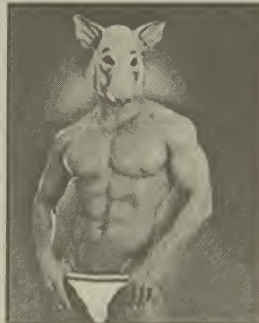
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